LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Sofia, Bulgaria.

No. 28. May 15, 1930.

JUN - 4 30

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN - 5 1930
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

FOR DISTRIBUTION - Yes No
To
In

771.74/37

FILED
JUN 27 1930

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith several articles from the Bulgarian press commenting favorably upon the election of a person of Bulgarian race from Dobritch to the Rumanian Senate on May 4, 1930. Although this recognition of the Bulgarian minority in Rumania has created much satisfaction in Bulgaria, it follows immediately upon a period of great dissatisfaction caused by the alleged persecution of Bulgarians in the Dobrudja by recently settled Kutzo-Vlach colonists.

The Legation has noted that further colonization has been restricted in the Dobrudja for the time being. This, if true,.....

if true, together with the above-mentioned election, ought to help keep the Rumanian-Bulgarian political horizon clear, but further developments in the present interesting state of feeling between the two countries will be reported upon as they occur.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Henry W. Shoemaker,

Henry W. Shoemaker,
American Minister.

HWS/hpk

Enclosures: (2)
As described above.

Copy to E.I.C. Paris.

File No. 710.

Press Report.
May 10, 1930.

ENCLOSURE NO. 1 ACCOMPANYING
DESPATCH NO. 28 OF May 11 1930
AMERICAN LEGATION, SOFIA.

DOBRITCH (RUMANIA) CHOOSES BULGARIAN SENATOR.

All Bulgarian newspapers and Bulgarian public opinion comment with great satisfaction on the recent election of the Bulgarian Hristo Stephanoff as Rumanian Senator from Dobritch.

The results of the election are, according to "Zora" (independent Ententist newspaper), of May 7th, as follows:

Hristo Stephanoff, the Govt. Candidate...	6,564 votes
Tosheff, Hungarian Minority.....	1,484 votes.
Bodour, Rumanian candidate.....	1,120 votes.

"Mir" (independent Entente newspaper) of May 8th, devotes a lengthy article to the importance of this success scored by the Dobrudja Bulgarians, which its editor, the well known wrtier and publicist, Mr. V.T. Veltcheff, says:

"On May 4th last the population of the District of Dobritch, Rumanian Dobrudja, was called upon to elect another Senator in place of Mr. Vello, who died suddenly. The election was held, and contrary to all expectations, the results were in favor of the Bulgarian minority in Rumania, which fact has a great historical significance.

"The only Rumanian candidate in the District of Dobritch was the one representing the so-called anti-Semitic Party, which, naturally enough, has no real following in a country as Dobrudja. Despite the intense anti-Semitic feeling which is in vogue in Rumania, and which has been so adroitely exploited by the Rumanian partisans in Dobrudja, the anti-Semitic candidate was able to win only one-fifth of the votes cast for the candidate of the local population.

"The votes given to Hristo Stephanoff are votes of the minority population, the tendency and aim of which will be the conversion of the Bulgarian element there into an independent political unity, unless the Maniu Government proves false to its platform and solemn promises given to the Bulgarian minorities which cast their votes so generously for his party and thus helped it come to power.

"In his platform as independent Bulgarian candidate, Mr. Tosheff, the seeming opponent of the successful Mr. Stephanoff, has shown himself to be a moderate politician and a good democrat. His candidature was put forward in the interest of the entire Bulgarian element in Rumania, but he was patriotic enough to withdraw it at the last moment when he was convinced that it was in the interest of his co-nationals to do so. The manner in which the elections were managed and won and the character of the platform of the Bulgarian candidates prove that the Bulgarian population in Dobrudja possesses political qualifications which, let us hope, will be justly and adequately appreciated."

CS/hpk

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

INDEX BUREAU
371.7453/38

SEE 371.7453/19 FOR Despatch #62

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED June 30,1930.
TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Ratification by the Rumanian Parliament on June 22 of the agreement entered into at The Hague whereby Rumania will raise the sequester on Bulgarian properties in Rumania. Mistreatment of the Bulgarian population in the Dobroudja.

th

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

INDEX BUREAU
771.74/39

SEE 871.00/301 FOR # 58

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED June 28, 1930.
NAME

TO

1—1127

REGARDING:

Bulgarian approval of Carol's return to the Rumanian throne. Relations between the two states friendly.

mb/

Sofia, Bulgaria.

No. 88. June 28, 1930.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department, with reference to recent political events in Rumania, that recorded Bulgarian opinion is almost unanimous in its approval of the return of Carol.

If during the past few weeks the Rumanian public has been made aware of what the Bulgarian press has had to say on the subject, all, except ardent Liberals, must feel that Bulgaria is disposed to wish Rumania well.

The "Zora" a pro-Government organ and one of the leading Sofia newspapers, commends the new order of things in.....

in Rumania and gives the credit for the change to the "practical good sense of the Rumanian peasants".

After pointing out that of Rumania's neighbors, Bulgaria has given the surest proof of friendliness, the "Preporetz", organ of Mr. Liaptcheff, wishes the new King of Rumania long life and a successful reign, adding that stability in Rumania is a primary condition to stability in Bulgaria.

The "Znamo" (Malinoff Democrats), finds in the return of Carol, proof of the political elasticity of the National peasants and increased hope for a stable regime in Rumania. The "Demokraticheski Sgovor", a government organ, felicitates Rumania on the return of Carol and wishes the new King long life and happiness. It finds in the new regime added safeguard for Bulgaria against the "Bolshevist danger".

King Carol's declaration to the effect that Rumania's relations with her minorities should be of the best and that loyal Rumanians will treat the minorities as good citizens of the "Fatherland", has evoked widespread expressions of approval here.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(SGD) HENRY W. SHOEMAKER.

Henry W. Shoemaker,
American Minister.

File No. 800.1
X Index 710.

Copy to M.I.C. Paris.

AM RECD

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bucharest, September 10, 1930.

No. 511

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 29 1930
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 8 1930
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Copy to M.I.D. Emb.

OCT 8 1930

771.74/40

771.74

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Rumanian press has given much attention lately to various atrocities committed in that part of the Dobrudja known as the "quadrilateral." The invaders are alleged to be Bulgarian comitadjis, an organization said to be supported by the irredentist society of Sofia known as the "Dobrudja." The victims are the Macedo-Rumanian colonists.

The incursions of armed bands of comitadjis from Bulgaria into this region are not rarities, but lately the Macedo-Rumanian colonists have been the victims of these invasions, and intimidation and terrorization appear to be the objective.

It is reported in the press that great indignation has been provoked among the Macedonian colonists by the recent

recent massacre in the village of Arabagi, near Silistra, of two children aged 12 and 13 years, and that two Bulgarians have been killed by the Macedonians in retaliation. The report states that the children were massacred by a band of Bulgarian comitadjis wearing the Bulgarian military uniform and equipped with rifles and hand grenades.

A very dangerous situation prevails in the Dobrudja as a result of the bitterness existing between the Bulgarian and Macedo-Rumanian populations. An American, who recently visited that district and who was received most hospitably by both populations, states that both sides openly express an intense hatred for each other and a readiness to fight to the death. Among the Macedonian colonists, he found many who spoke English, many having resided for years in the United States. He describes them as being hard working, shrewd, fearless and determined. There could be no doubt about their fighting abilities. They came to Rumania from various parts of the world when Rumania undertook the distribution of its landed estates to the peasantry and by reason of their residence and experiences abroad they have acquired a certain cosmopolitanism and in some instances comfortable savings. They do not look upon themselves as peasants and in this respect, as well as others, consider themselves the superiors of the Bulgarian population.

The Macedonian colonists are strongly opposed to the National-Peasant Party and the present Government. This

is

is due to the Government's opposition to the further influx of Macedonian colonists into the Dobrudja. It is said that 160 families are now at Salonika unable to get passport facilities. The recent attack on the life of the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Angelescu, by a Macedonian student was the result of indignation felt by the Macedonians upon the passage of the agrarian reform bill for the Dobrudja; Mr. Angelescu having been considered its author and its provisions having been thought more favorable to the Bulgarian population.

From information which the Legation has been able to obtain with regard to this subject, the Macedonian colonists in the Dobrudja are estimated to number about 15,000 persons. There are said to be about 20,000 native Rumanians in that district, while the Bulgarian population amounts to some 200,000. The native Rumanians do not seem to be involved in the present controversy. There are also a small number of Tartars, Turks and Greeks.

In an article appearing in the Government's newspaper, LA NATION ROUMAINE, of September 10, 1930, which discusses the situation created in the Dobrudja by the recent atrocities, the concluding paragraph states:

> "It is evident that the Rumanian Government cannot tolerate on its territory acts of brigandage and that it will take all necessary measures for the protection of the Macedo-Rumanian colonists. If it has not done this up to the present, it is precisely because it wishes to avoid friction between the colonists and the other inhabitants, but if the atrocities continue, it will require necessarily

a strengthening of defensive measures. In any event, the Rumanian Government cannot permit itself to be influenced in its policy of colonization by acts of violence."

Respectfully yours,

Charles A. Bay,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

840.1

qn. Three copies to E. I. C., Paris.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/41

SEE 761.71/80 FOR WD 837

FROM France (Dawson) DATED October 25,1930
TO NAME

1—1127 ...

REGARDING: Italian-Bulgarian-Rumanian relations.
Comments upon fact that Italian agents had concerted with Rumanian counter-espoinage service in the hopes of facilitating the Soviet invasion in Rumania.

Believes Italy planned that Bulgaria should seize portions of Rumanian territory when Soviets attacked Rumania and then become Italy's ally in a war with Yugoslavia.

leb

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 371.7453/24 FOR #566

FROM Rumania (Wilson) DATED Dec 13, 1930

TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

771.74/42

REGARDING:

No reasons now why the relations between Bulgaria and Rumania cannot be cordial and friendly since the signing of the Agreement for the settlement of sequestrated Bulgarian property in Rumania.

b

Bucharest, December 13, 1930.

No. 866.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the agreement between Rumania and Bulgaria concerning the property of Bulgarians sequestrated in Rumania during the war, which was signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the respective countries at The Hague on January 20, 1930, was signed by the King of Rumania on the 4th instant and published in the Monitorul Oficial No. 279, of December 9, 1930. This agreement, I understand, was ratified by the Bulgarian government some time previously.

Negotiations concerning this question of the sequestration of Bulgarian property in Rumania have been carried on ever since the signature of the Treaty of Neuilly and an agreement has seemed on the point of being reached on several occasions only to fail at the last moment, which has caused annoyance and irritation on both sides and has

prevented

prevented relations between Bulgaria and Rumania from becoming normal. With the settlement of this last question growing out of the war, there would seem to be no reason why relations between the two countries should not be friendly and even cordial. I was always surprised during my stay in Bulgaria to find how little feeling existed there against Rumania, in spite of the fact that the two countries had been enemies both in the second Balkan War and the World War. The Bulgarian post-war feeling toward Rumania was and is, in marked contrast with the sentiment toward Jugoslavia, or even Greece. As to Rumania, which was on the winning side in both wars, it is easier not to cherish any deep resentment and her feeling toward Bulgaria appears to be one of condescending and slightly contemptuous tolerance for a small, weak country at a rather inferior stage of development and civilization.

Respectfully yours,

Charles S. Wilson

350

qn. Three copies to E.I.C. Paris.

CSW/LMM

RECD
DEPT. OF STATE
DIV. COM. & REC.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, September 5, 1931.

No. 286

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 22 1931
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
SEP 25 1931
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR DISTRIBUTION
Copy to MID
SEP 25 1931

771.74/43

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

771.74

I have the honor to report that considerable indignation is being expressed in various quarters over the killing of Hristo Stefanoff, a former Senator and leader of the Bulgarians in Dobrudja, who was shot on September 3rd at Dobritch by a Rumanian colonist who is employed as a civilian attache at the police station in the population registration bureau in that town. Placed under arrest he stated that he had committed the crime to avenge the death of an un-named Rumanian officer who was killed by Bulgarian comitadji and also to avenge the death of various Rumanians killed in Bulgaria. As yet full details have not been received in Sofia but as the Dobrudja is a "sore

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"sore spot" with many Bulgarians any outrages reported from there do not fail to create an unpleasant reaction.

Respectfully yours,

Henry W. Shoemaker,
American Minister.

710

COPY SENT TO [illegible]

IN

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, September 21, 1931.

No. 2[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 30 1931
A-C/C
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

OCT - 9 31

FOR DI[illegible]

Copy to MID

OCT 30 1931

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 10 1931
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74/44

FILED
NOV 5 1931

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

771.74/43

I have the honor to report with reference to my former despatch No.286 of September 5, 1931, that two other persons of Bulgarian race in the Dobrudja have fallen victims to assassin's knives since the killing of former Senator Hristo Stefanoff. While official Bulgaria has paid little attention to these matters radical sections of the press have given voice to sensational utterances with the result that the Roumanian Charge d'Affaires in Sofia visited the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mooshanoff to protest against these journalistic attacks. Speaking with one of the secretaries of the Foreign Office he told me that the

matter

matter had been complicated by the fact that these minorities had been expecting great things of Mr. Malinoff who was born a member of the Bulgarian minority in Bessarabia and that they thought that he would fully sympathize with their aspirations, as would his wife, a Jewish woman of great attainments, who in her early days was exiled from Russia for anti-czarist polemics. At present Madame Malinoff is an ardent advocate of French culture and affiliations.

As one liberal newspaper in Sofia lately put it "the Bulgarians in the Dobrudja are much disappointed at the indifference of the free Bulgaria over their sad situation. The Dobrudja will begin to look to Soviet Russia for delivery and if ill treatment continues the Dobrudja will become the door for Bolshevism in the Balkans". The afore-mentioned Foreign Office secretary concluded by saying that while official Bulgaria might regret these assassinations it cannot take any more cognizance of them than if an American citizen of Bulgarian descent should happen to be murdered in the United States.

Respectfully yours,

Henry W. Shoemaker,

Henry W. Shoemaker,

710

COPY SENT TO E. I. C.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/45

SEE 874.00 P.R./1 FOR #306

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED Nov.19,1931.

TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Ill feeling between Bulgaria and Rumania because of recent murder of several Bulgarians in the Dobrudja. Speech of Bulgarian Deputy to Interparliamentary Congress at Bucharest on subject of minorities.

kn

2. Speech of Deputy Zakinoff at the Interparliamentary Congress.

It is to be observed that Bulgarian delegates to international gatherings rarely, if ever, fail to become oratorical on the subject of minorities. For example, at the recent interparliamentary gathering at Bucharest, and it should be borne in mind that exceptional ill feeling between Bulgaria and Roumania exists at this time because of the recent murder of several Bulgarians in the Dobrudja, Mr. Zakinoff, a Bulgarian deputy and the leader of the Bulgarian Socialist party, addressed the Interparliamentary Congress on the subject of minorities.

AM RECD

DEPT. OF STATE DIV. COM. & REC. JAN 22 32

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bucharest, December 22, 1931.

No. 814.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE JAN 22 1932 DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

FOR DEPARTMENT

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

771.74

Sir:

I have the honor to report that some months ago the murder took place in the Dobrogea of an ex-senator, a Rumanian citizen, but Bulgarian by race and origin. The murderer was a member of the Liberal Party and the cause of the crime was apparently a party quarrel. The Dobrogean organizations in Bulgaria, however, tried to find in the crime a political motive, asserting that this was merely one more incident in the repression practiced by the Rumanian Government upon the Bulgarian population of the Dobrogea. Public meetings were held, protests drawn up, and the Bulgarian press became violent in its attacks upon Rumania. The Rumanian press replied

in

771.74/46

FILED JAN 30 1932

in the same tone, and there resulted considerable coolness between the two countries.

Yesterday the new Bulgarian Minister, Mr. Kiosseivanov, whom I had previously known in Sofia, came to see me, and I inquired whether the Dobrogean situation showed signs of improvement. I was rather surprised by his reply, for he said that the whole trouble about the Dobrogea was stirred up by small, unimportant organizations in Bulgaria who made their living by collecting funds to keep agitation alive. He said that the Bulgarians in the Dobrogea had no cause of complaint; that they were allowed to use their own language freely, published newspapers in Bulgarian, had schools and churches of their own in which only Bulgarian was used. He went on to say that before coming here he had urged his Government to suppress these unimportant and mischievous Dobrogean organizations and put an end to their activities, as he felt sure that they could do nothing to improve the situation of Bulgarians in the Dobrogea, which is satisfactory, but which, if continued, might drive the Rumanian Government to take measures which would make their situation considerably worse. He hoped that his Government would take his advice and thus put an end to a question which otherwise will continue to embitter Bulgarian-Rumanian relations. He said that the Bulgarians in the Dobrogea possessed the rights for which the Macedonians in Greece and Yugoslavia were now fighting, viz., the right to use their own language and have their own schools and churches. If they secured these, he believed they would be satisfied and that the reign of terror of the Macedonian revolutionary organization would come to

an

note 871.4016 Bulgarians

an end. This last belief I do not share, for I do not believe that the Macedonians in Greece and Yugoslavia, nor the Macedonian revolutionary organization will be satisfied by anything less than an autonomous Macedonia, which would lead ultimately to union with Bulgaria, and an inevitable Balkan war. I remarked, in reply to his statement, that the Government could with great ease suppress Dobrogean organization in Bulgaria, that it had apparently with the best desire and intention been unable to control the activities of the Macedonian Revolutionary Committee. He insisted that the two could not be compared in any way. The Macedonian organization had for the past sixty years extended its ramifications throughout every class of Bulgarian society from the highest to the lowest, many political leaders in Bulgaria were sympathizers, if not members, and furthermore, any Minister or person who attempted to interfere with its activities might be said to be signing his own death warrant, as sooner or later he would be assassinated. The Dobrogean organization in Bulgaria is a weak one, of recent creation, existing only since the Balkan wars, and is made up of unknown and uninfluential persons who are in it for their own benefit.

Respectfully yours,

Charles S. Wilson

Charles S. Wilson.

714

qn. Three copies to E.I.C. Paris.

CSW/LHH

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, April 7, 1932.

NE
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No. 397

Subject: BULGARO-RUMANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT.

DIVISION OF
EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MAY 12 1932
COPY IN EE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of Economic Adviser
MAY 9 1932
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 25
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74

771.74/47

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that during the past ten days much has been said in Sofia about improved relations between Bulgaria and Rumania. Those who predict such a development in the near future, and they are numerous, find support for their contention in the fact that Mr. Basile Stoica, until recently Rumanian Minister to Albania, has just been named to represent his country at Sofia. For well over a year now the local Rumanian Legation has been presided over by a chargé d'affaires ad interim. This apparent diplomatic neglect of Bulgaria by its neighbor across the Danube is well compensated, say local advocates of Bulgaro-Rumanian rapprochement, by the appointment of

Mr.

Mr. Stoica, who is said to be one of the outstanding of the younger Rumanian diplomats. The Department will doubtless recall that he was connected with Rumanian representaion in the United States shortly after the World War, and that it was he who later had the notorious altercation in the waiting room of the Rumanian Prime Minister with Prince Bibesco, a former Rumanian Minister to Washington.

Another cause for the hope of improved relations between Bulgaria and Rumania is found in the visit during the past week of a large and important delegation of Rumanians to Sofia, here to assist in the establishment of a society to further friendship between Bulgaria and Rumania. This delegation was headed by former Ministers Lupu and Raducano. Both Mr. Lupu and Mr. Raducano were received by the leaders of the Government and by other Bulgarian political leaders.

Another sign of the times, in the way of improved Bulgaro-Rumanian relations, is found in the fact that the Rumanian Government has accepted without demur the Bulgarian proposal to bring the second payment due from it under the Bulgaro-Rumanian Hague Agreement within the scope of the Hoover moratorium. Bulgaria's desire to so deal with this payment was reported in the Legation's despatch No. 388 of March 19, 1932. The prompt acquiescence of Rumania in this matter has evoked considerable satisfaction in Bulgaria and has been interpreted by Bulgarians as a manifestation of a spirit of conciliation on the part of Rumania.

462.00 R 296/5604

During the recent visit of the Rumanian delegation, the local press has stressed the fact that friendship between

between the two states was traditional prior to the second Balkan war, and that even since that time Bulgaro-Rumanian relations have not been characterized by the bitterness common to the relations between most Balkan states. The press has not tired of emphasizing the fact that during Bulgaria's struggle for independence it was Rumania that extended assistance and comfort to the Bulgarian leaders.

More material factors in the predicted rapprochement are, in the opinion of the Legation, Rumania's favorable balance of from two to three hundred million levas annually in the commercial exchange between the two states, and the fact that recently there has been much talk in Bulgaria of the resumption of direct trade relations with Russia. The reestablishment of such relations with Russia would no doubt adversely affect this favorable trade balance, as at present Rumanian petroleum monopolizes the Bulgarian market. It may be added that there are many who believe that Rumania would look with concern upon a settlement of the differences outstanding between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Persons of this opinion are inclined to point out that France may now be able, because of Bulgaria's financial plight, to force Bulgaria to come to terms with Yugoslavia.

671.74

Respectfully yours,

Henry W. Shoemaker.

Henry W. Shoemaker.

710

Copy sent to E.I.C.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/48

SEE 874.00/427 FOR #499

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED Aug.25, 1932

TO

NAME

1—1127 o.f.o.

REGARDING:

Demonstrations in Varna, Bulgaria, against the ~~Ruthg~~ Rumanian Government.

Wi

Sofia, Bulgaria, August 25, 1932.

No.499

Subject: RIVAL BULGARIAN GROUPS STIR UP DISCONTENT IN DOBRUDJA.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that newspaper readers in Western Europe were somewhat mystified to read that a rumor was current in Vienna that Macedonian malcontents would attempt to blow up the suburban villa there occupied by Princess Ileana of Rumania and her husband Prince Anton of Hapsburg. The background to this report is best described by the Sofia correspondent of the LONDON TIMES in a despatch dated at Sofia on August 18, and headed "Incident at Varna".

> "A recent recurrence of sanguinary incidents in the Dobrudja between the indigenous Bulgarians and the Macedonian immigrants has caused excitement among Bulgarian emigrants from the Dobrudja who are holding their annual congress at Varna, where they

made

made demonstrations of protest in the streets against the Rumanian Government.

"The Rumanian Government having been informed that certain Bulgarian authorities had taken part in these hostile demonstrations, demanded explanations of the Bulgarian Government, pointing out the unfortunate effect that this might have on Rumano-Bulgarian relations. M. Stoica, the Rumanian Minister in Sofia, also made friendly representations in the same sense to M. Mooshanoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister. He protested particularly against the anti-Rumanian character of a speech delivered by the chief of the Varna garrison on the occasion of the "baptism" of the flag of the Young Dobrudjans, in the course of which he said that such ceremonies could alone counteract the policy of a friendly approach to Bulgaria begun by the Rumanian Government.

"M. Mooshanoff expressed his regrets, and promised to institute a strict inquiry into the affair and to see that justice was done.

"He recalled the measures which had been taken for the close surveillance of the Dobrudjan immigrants, and for restraining all activities directed against Rumania. He asked that Bucharest also should take parallel measures for guaranteeing the security of Bulgarians in the Dobrudja with the view to avoiding all misunderstandings.

"Both M. Mooshahoff and M. Stoica agreed that the incident was now closed, and that it in no way impaired the good relations between the two Governments."

It was by a strange coincidence that Mr. Gitcheff, the Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture and leader of the Agrarian party, was making a tour of the Dobrudja during the period of these anti-Rumanian manifestations at Varna. According to Mr. Gitcheff's friends he was merely making the trip to gain information as to actual conditions existing there. In a recent conversation with Mr. Stoica, the new Rumanian Minister, he said that his mission in Sofia is a purely friendly and constructive one, and he does not intend to lay stress on a sporadic and ill-advised outbreak of small groups such as occurred at Varna.

Respectfully yours,

Henry W. Shoemaker.

710
HWS:MC
Copy sent to E.I.C.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 874.00/428 FOR #937

FROM Rumania (Holmes) DATED Aug.27, 1932

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Anti-Rumanian demonstration at Varna, Bulgaria.

771.74/49

Wi

No. 937. Bucharest, August 27, 1938.

Subject: Comment caused in Rumanian Press by Celebration at Varna commemorating the Death of the Bulgarian Hero Corogan.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report the following incident which occurred at Varna, Bulgaria, on August 14, 1938, and which has caused a great deal of comment in the Rumanian press.

A celebration was organized at Varna on August 14th by the Bulgarian irridentist society "Dobrudja" to commemorate the death of the Bulgarian hero, Corogan. According to Rumanian newspapers the celebration turned into an anti-Rumanian demonstration in favor of the return of the Dobrudja to Bulgaria. Anti-Rumanian speeches were made and

Bulgarian

Bulgarian officials took part in the manifestation, including the mayor of the city of Varna and General Jieff, Commander of the Varna garrison. The manifestation consisted of a te deum in the cathedral during which the flags of the "Tebrudja Youth" were blessed and irredentist speeches delivered. The te deum was followed by a parade in the streets of Varna led by General Jieff and the mayor of the city.

Without exception the Rumanian press has heartily condemned the Varna incident and deplores that it occurred, especially in view of the more friendly relations between the two countries which have been manifest during the past few weeks by the visit of members of the Bulgarian bar to their confreres in Bucharest and the organization of committees both in Bucharest and Sofia to promote more friendly relations between the two neighboring countries.

Rumanian newspapers point out that recently Bulgarian inhabitants of the Dobrudja have been given permission to visit Bulgaria in large numbers. A short time ago, a group of about 1500 Bulgarians from Silistra and Turtucaia made an excursion to Bulgaria. They halted en route to Rustiuk and speeches favorable to Rumania were made calling the attention of Greece and Yugoslavia to the fair manner in which the Bulgarian minority in the Dobrudja is treated by Rumania.

The Rumanian press, without exception, has voiced

voiced the opinion that it is futile to attempt to promote friendly and neighborly relations with such people as the Bulgarians, who are incapable of expressing their selfish and nationalistic tendencies.

The Rumanian Government protested to the Bulgarian Government and it is understood that the latter replied expressing deep regret at the incident.

The Varna affair is another indication that national feelings in this part of the world are still extremely touchy and that the Balkan pot continues to boil as of old.

Respectfully yours,

J. C. Holmes,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

800
cr. 714
cm. Three copies to L.I.C. Paris.
JCH/LHH

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/50

SEE 774.00/62 FOR #664

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED May 22, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Rumanian-Bulgarian frontier incident, in which a Bulgarian was killed.

W1

Likewise, as Bulgaria and Rumania have been getting on very well of late, the news of an incident on the Bulgaro-Dobrudjian frontier does not come as a surprise. According to information from Bulgarian sources a Bulgarian subject, long resident in Dobritch, sought on May 16 to slip across the frontier into Bulgaria. He was seen by Rumanian frontier guards and shot down by them, after pursuit, when nine hundred meters inside the Bulgarian line. It appears from the Bulgarian version that a Bulgarian officer happened along at the right moment to place one of the pursuing Rumanian guards under arrest while well within the Bulgarian frontier. The local press reports that the border authorities have not been

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, September 2, 1933.

No.737

SUBJECT: MR. TITULESCO'S VISIT BECOMES PROBLEMATIC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 2 1933
DIVISION OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
SEP 29 1933
MR BULLITT

FOR DISTRIBUTION

AM. RECD
DEPT. OF STATE
SEP 20 33

Copy to M I D

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE

OCT 3 - 1933

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 23 1933
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74/51

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

761.012 (agreem)

I have the honor to refer to the Prime Minister's statement, made on July 14 and reported in the Legation's despatch No.709, of July 18, 1933, to the effect that Mr. Titulesco proposes to visit Sofia this autumn in the interest of Balkan understanding, and to report that it now seems unlikely that the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs will actually come to Sofia, although subsequent to July 14 it became generally known here that Mr. Titulesco had made certain proposals for improved relations between Bulgaria and its neighbors to Mr. Malinoff, while the latter was in London attending the World

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OCT 10 1933

Economic

Economic Conference, and that some time later Mr. Mooshanoff had let Mr. Titulesco know through his Minister here that a visit by him to Sofia would be welcome.

Mr. Stoica, the Rumanian Minister here, now explains that it is futile to talk of a visit by Mr. Titulesco to Sofia in the interest of Balkan understanding when he, Mr. Stoica, is unable to make any progress with the Bulgarian Government toward the settlement of the simplest questions in dispute between the two states. Mr. Stoica has just returned from a visit to Bucharest where, it would seem, he was able to dampen the ardor of his chief for a visit to Sofia. It is also thought here that Belgrade has sought to discourage Mr. Titulesco from coming to Sofia, especially as the reports of his proposed visit caused the rumor to circulate that he would suggest a rectification of the Bulgaro-Yugoslav frontier in favor of Bulgaria's claim that the entire population of the Western Confines, which were given to Yugoslavia by the Treaty of Neuilly, is Bulgarian. Furthermore, the report set in motion the rumor that Mr. Titulesco would also consider a rectification of the Bulgaro-Dobrudjan frontier in favor of Bulgaria. Questioned about these rumors recently by representatives of the Sofia press Mr. Mooshanoff stated that they are unfounded and are actually harmful to the solution of delicate problems, especially as they unnecessarily excite the population in the areas concerned.

The rumor of a proposed rectification of the Bulgaro-Dobrudjan frontier appears to have excited the Rumanian conservative and nationalistic newspapers which have also expressed dissatisfaction over the visit of M. Herriot to

Sofia

Sofia, suggesting that the French statesman has been meddling in purely Rumanian affairs. These expressions of alarm have been interpreted locally as an indication that Rumanian public opinion is not yet prepared to accept sacrifices in the interest of improved relations in the Balkans, and should Mr. Titulesco now fail to turn up in Sofia local opinion will doubtless conclude that such is in fact the case.

The remarks made in Bulgaria on the minorities question by M. Henri Guernut, a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the French Chamber, who visited Bulgaria as a delegate to the Ninth Congress of the International Entente of the Radical and Democratic Parties, have doubtless also acted as a deterrent on Mr. Titulesco. Speaking as Vice President of the French League for the Rights of Man, M. Guernut expressed himself as follows on the minorities issue in an interview with representatives of the local press: "One cannot eternally deny the evidence of the existence of the Bulgarian minorities. Sooner or later this evidence will open the eyes of those Balkan Governments which do not wish to see reality to-day". Later, after having visited the Dobrudjan frontier, M. Guernut said at Varna: "While being welcomed so heartily by the Dobrudjan population, I have lived unforgettable moments. I render homage to the stoicism with which these countrypeople support their tragic lot. If justice governed all destinies in the world this population should be a happy one. The Dobrudjan question in principle is very simple. The autochthonous population of the Dobrudja should be able to pronounce freely on its

destiny

destiny and to fix by its own will the state to which it shall belong. The revision of the treaties will come but not by means of war. As regards the Dobrudjan cause, an effort must be made to present it in its true light abroad". At Bourgas M. Guernut spoke as follows: "From the conversations I have had with the representatives of the minorities living in Bulgaria I am able to conclude that the Bulgarian people and government officials treat the minorities with extreme justice. It only remains to wish that the Bulgarian minorities living in other territories be treated in a similar fashion. The Bulgarian minorities abroad should enjoy all the ethnic, religious and scholastic rights which the treaty of peace granted them. I anticipate a happy solution of the minorities question by the democratic peoples grouped together in the equally democratic League of Nations. I believe that the Bulgarian people will succeed in the solution of this question which concerns it so closely because they seek justice and peace. Soon they will gain to their cause the entire democratic world".

874.4016

The earlier reports that Mr. Titulesco would without doubt visit Sofia this autumn have had the effect, which is customary when efforts are underway to improve Balkan relations, of giving rise to incidents calculated to excite hostile public opinion. According to the local newspaper MIR, L'INDEPENDENCE ROUMAINE began in its issue of August 16 the publication of a series of articles by a so-called "expert in matters relating to the unfortunate regime towhich Rumanians in Bulgaria are subjected". MIR observes that it is to be regretted that Rumania should

have

have waited fifty-five years, until the very moment when an effort is about to be made to improve Balkan relations, to raise the complaint that Rumanians in Bulgaria, of whom there are only a very few, and those almost exclusively in the neighborhood of Vidin, are not properly treated. According to LA BULGARIE of August 26 Rumanian students of the Dobrudja, in congress at Constanza, voted a resolution for the Rumanization of the Dobrudja in which the adoption of severe methods for the suppression of Bulgarian race consciousness amongst the Bulgarian students of the Dobrudja were recommended. The local press has also dwelt at some length on an alleged recent incident of mistreatment of Sofia university students by a group of drunken Rumanian students and officers in Dobritch. This incident has given rise to a resolution of protest by the National Union of Bulgarian students.

Respectfully yours,

Maynard B. Barnes,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

1 Carbon Copies
Received L.E.C.

710
MBB:MC

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria October 16, 1933.

No.762

Subject: MR. TITULESCO VISITS SOFIA.

PM RECD
NOV 1 33
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
NOV 13 1933
MR BULLITT
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Copy to M.I.D
771.74/52

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 2 - 1933
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that Mr. Titulesco, the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stopped in Sofia from the morning of October 12 to the afternoon of the next day, while on his way from Warsaw, where he had gone following the conference of the Little Entente at Sinaia, to Ankara and Athens. During his stay in Sofia Mr. Titulesco was received by King Boris and held a series of three official conversations with Mr. Mooshanoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had cut short his visit to Paris to negotiate with the pre-war bondholders in order to be in

Sofia

Sofia during the visit of the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In well informed circles it is believed that Mr. Titulesco came to Sofia to discuss, on the one hand, Balkan relations on the basis of some definite plan calculated to bring about Balkan collaboration and improvement in the general international situation, and on the other hand, to seek a settlement of the questions in suspense between Bulgaria and Rumania. These latter questions are said to be four in number, namely, the establishment of Bulgarian language schools in the Dobrudja and of Rumanian language schools in the Vidin area, the release of the sequestered Bulgarian property in Rumania, the return to Rumania of certain archives relating to the Dobrudja and the conclusion of an agreement permitting Rumania to operate a commercial aviation line over Bulgarian territory. It is also believed that the question of a bridge over the Danube between Bulgarian and Rumanian territory was raised on the Bulgarian side but that Mr. Titulesco replied that as the Rumanian General Staff is opposed to the construction of such a bridge at this time, prior to the completion of the bridge between Rumania and Yugoslavia, he could not discuss the question, at least for the present.

The visit has undoubtedly served to bring the two states closer together on the specific questions in suspense between them, but it is generally thought that as Mr. Titulesco was unable to offer any real concessions with reference to Bulgaria's claims in connection with the Dobrudja, Thrace and Macedonia, his visit did not accomplish anything definite in the way of persuading Bulgaria that

now

now is the time for it to join in the signing of pacts. This opinion, however, does not preclude the possibility of Bulgarian collaboration in an eventual scheme, fostered by the Little Entente, for the economic reorganization of Central Europe, a subject which Mr. Titulesco doubtless also dwelt upon in his conversations with Mr. Mooshanoff.

In his address of welcome at the dinner given by him to the visiting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mooshanoff, after dwelling pleasantly on the assistance of Rumanian arms in the struggle for Bulgarian independence, again elaborated on Bulgaria's policy of faith in the League of Nations and the Four Power Pact. Mr. Mooshanoff stated that "Bulgaria, sincerely desiring friendship with all nations, profoundly attached to the work of peace and to the principles proclaimed by the covenant of the League of Nations and by the other international acts which have followed and completed the covenant, appreciates with live satisfaction all initiatives, which, taking into account the rights and legitimate interests of each, act to avoid disagreements and differences". "Therefore", said Mr. Mooshanoff, "I am very happy to see in your visit an initiative of this very character". In his reply Mr. Titulesco stressed scrupulous respect for the peace treaties.

At the reception following the dinner Dr. George Radeff, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in commenting to me on Mr. Titulesco's remarks, said that it is apparent that the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs is not well versed in Bulgarian foreign

policy

policy, which is now based largely on the fact that the Pact of Four admits that the treaties must ultimately be revised.

Upon the departure of Mr. Titulesco for Ankara and Athens, where presumably he will continue his efforts in behalf of Balkan collaboration and improvement in the general international situation, a joint statement on the conversations between the Rumanian statesman and Mr. Mooshanoff was issued in which the interesting news that King Boris, accompanied by Mr. Mooshanoff, and King Carol, accompanied by Mr. Titulesco, will soon meet was
1/ first announced. A translation of this joint statement is enclosed. According to the latest information the meeting between King Carol and King Boris is scheduled to take place on board King Carol's yacht on the Danube, perhaps on the 29th of this month.

Respectfully yours,

Maynard B. Barnes,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

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MBB:MC

Enclosure: Translation of joint statement on the conversations between Mr. Mooshanoff and Mr. Titulesco.

Enclosure with despatch No.763
dated October 16, 1933.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT:

The President of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, Mr. N. Mooshanoff, and the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. N. Titulesco, have had three conversations in the course of which the questions interesting the two states have been examined with a view to strengthening the friendly relations between Bulgaria and Rumania. These conversations have been marked by the greatest cordiality. The two Ministers for Foreign Affairs will continue their exchange of views on the occasion of the interview which will soon take place between his Majesty King Boris and his Majesty King Carol.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/53

SEE 770.00/272 FOR #17

FROM Rumania (Owsley) DATED Oct.20, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127 ero

REGARDING:

Visit of Titulescu of Rumania to Bulgaria.

Report on -, questions discussed and results of the visit. Quotes communique which was issued following conversations.

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 771.00/22 FOR #27

FROM Yugoslavia (Wilson) DATED Oct.27, 1933

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Rapprochement between Rumania and Bulgaria.

Statement of Titulescu of Rumania that there are no serious obstacles to a -.

771.74/54

54

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/55

SEE 774.00/70 FOR #770

FROM Bulgaria (Barnes) DATED Oct.27, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127 o.f.o.

REGARDING:

Statement of Titulescu of Rumania to the Bulgarian Prime Minister that the Little Entente is willing to work for economic recovery of Bulgaria as part of a general scheme for recovery throughout the Danube basin, but only on condition of improved relations between Rumania and Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Wi

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Bucharest, November 4, 1933.

No. 29

Subject: Mr. Titulescu's journeys to Poland, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece looking to a Balkan rapprochement. Meeting of Kings Carol of Rumania and ~~Boris~~ of Bulgaria.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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DIVISION OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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DIVISION OF
EASTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
DEC 12 1933
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEC 15

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 1 - 1933
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Legation's recent despatches concerning Mr. Titulescu's journeys to Poland, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece and to report that he returned to Bucharest on October 28 and stopped at Sinaia to make a report to the King.

Following his return a meeting between King Carol and King Boris of Bulgaria was held on the Danube on Monday, October 31. The following official communiqué was issued after the meeting:

"His

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DEC 20 1933

"His Majesty King Boris III of Bulgaria and His Majesty King Carol II of Rumania met on the 30th of October at Giurgiu in Rumania. After reviewing the Rumanian company of honor at Giurgiu, the two Sovereigns crossed the Danube to Rusciuk in Bulgaria where they reviewed the Bulgarian company of honor.

"The two Sovereigns, accompanied by their suites, then went aboard the royal Rumanian yacht, 'Ştefan cel Mare,' which took them as far as Zimnicea-Siştov, from where they returned to the point of departure.

"A lunch was offered by His Majesty King Carol in honor of His Majesty King Boris.

"On this occasion the Rumanian President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Al. Vaida Voevod, the Bulgarian President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. N. Mouchanoff, and the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. N. Titulescu, had a long discussion upon the yacht on the different questions concerning the relations between the two countries, as well as the peace in the Balkans.

"The two Governments have declared themselves desirous of resolving as soon as possible the pending questions between their countries and manifested their desire to collaborate in a spirit of cordial friendship for the consolidation of peace."

It is understood that at this meeting of the two Sovereigns questions concerning Rumania and Bulgaria were discussed and it was in general agreed that steps should be taken for the settlement of all outstanding differences between the two countries. This should be easy of accomplishment with a little good will and reciprocal trust. The commercial relations between the two nations were also considered and a vague conclusion was reached that efforts should be made to stimulate the exchange of merchandise.

How far the discussion went with regard to a

Balkan

Balkan pact is very problematic. It is also difficult to know how far King Carol would go to encourage the King of Bulgaria to come to some agreement for better relations with Yugoslavia. Both the Chief and the Assistant Chief of the Political Section of the Foreign Office told a member of the Legation today that they had no knowledge of what was discussed by the two kings. They added that they were completely in the dark as to the results of Mr. Titulescu's journeys beyond what they had read in the newspapers. The files of the Foreign Office contain absolutely nothing pertaining to all the recent diplomatic activity.

The Legation is of the opinion that the success or failure of Mr. Titulescu's great scheme to bring about peace and friendship among the nations of the Balkans depends almost entirely upon Bulgaria, and Bulgaria's resistance to participating in a Balkan pact or in a political agreement with the Little Entente is almost exclusively due to the Macedonian problem. Bulgaria's position is further complicated by the doubtful authority of the Bulgarian Government to dispose of this very thorny problem——even if it were so inclined. A high official of the Rumanian Foreign Office said a few days ago to a member of the Legation: "We all are willing to establish close and friendly relations for the consolidation of peace in the Balkans. It all depends on Bulgaria. The Bulgars will have to decide whether they want to come in to a Balkan union or remain isolated and suffer the consequences."

In

In all the recent negotiations Mr. Titulescu has used every argument to persuade the Balkan countries to turn over a new leaf. He has stated that in the past the Balkan Peninsula was the powder magazine of Europe, largely because the Great Powers made it so as a result of their struggle for spheres of influence. He has pointed out that the Austro-Hungarian empire no longer exists, that Russia is busy with internal affairs and has given up political ambition in Southern Europe, and that the Great Powers are so concerned with their own troubles that at last the Balkan nations have an opportunity to come to a friendly understanding among themselves. He has called upon them to show the world that they can settle their troubles by rational and peaceable means.

It is reported that the next step in the campaign of the Little Entente and Mr. Titulescu will be a visit of King Boris to King Carol at Sinaia during the month of January, which will be followed by a meeting of the Kings of Rumania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria at Belgrade later in the winter. These royal visits have not been definitely announced, but it is certain that the Bulgarian Prime Minister will return Mr. Titulescu's visit on January 15th.

No doubt all this activity can only result in good and there is a decided change in the atmosphere looking toward Balkan rapprochement. However, it would be unwise to presume that fine speeches and protestations of friendship and peaceful intent will be able in a

short

short time to wipe out the manifold hates and troubles which are the products of centuries of strife.

Respectfully yours,

Alvin M. Owsley.

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cr. 710

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JCH/BFG

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, November 4, 1933.

No.773

SUBJECT: MEETING OF KING BORIS AND KING CAROL.

DEPT. OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
A-C/C
DEC 11 1933
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
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FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK Yes No
To the Field ✓
To the Field ✓
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DEC 12 1933

CONFIDENTIAL

JA 771.74/57

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 4 - 1933
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

DEC 18 1933
FILED

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

774.00/90

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No.770, of October 27, 1933, and to enclose a translation of the official statement issued at the termination of the conversations between the Bulgarian and Rumanian sovereigns, which took place on board the Rumanian royal yacht STEFAN CEL MARE on the Danube on October 30th. The two sovereigns were accompanied by their respective prime ministers, by M. Titulesco, the Rumanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and by the Rumanian Minister at Sofia and his opposite number in Bucharest.

Bulgarian public opinion has seen in the meeting,

following

following so closely on the heels of the visit of King Alexander of Yugoslavia to Euxinograde, further indication that the monarchs of the three Balkan states united by the Danube are taking an active part in efforts to establish good neighborly relations, and it is pleased. But early concrete results from the meeting between King Boris and King Carol are not expected, as it is generally thought that the two sovereigns and their respective ministers did not go further in their conversations than to exchange views on pending questions between the two states and on the problem of peace in the Balkans, preparatory to a second meeting to be held some time early next year in Rumania, and to be followed perhaps by conversations in which King Alexander will take a part. At the same time Bulgarian opinion remains skeptical of any ultimate benefit from the efforts toward rapprochement now on foot. As yet Belgrade and Bucharest have given no indications of a willingness to make any concession to the Bulgarian determination to continue its struggle in behalf of Bulgarian minorities in neighboring states and not to reaffirm the territorial status quo. If, however, M. Titulesco and his sovereign have relegated the much talked of Balkan Locarno to a temporary limbo, and are striving for bilateral agreements which would lead to better relations between Bulgaria and its nieghbors, and thereby ultimately to a much wider understanding than is possible at this moment, there is no reason to accept local skepticism as the absolute measure of what may be possible in the near future.

At the same time it should be noted that Bulgarian opinion has not failed to give wide publicity through the

medium

medium of its press to the thought that the recent disturbances in the Dobrudja are indicative of a state of affairs which makes good neighborly relations most difficult, if not impossible. Give effect to the peace treaties, says Bulgarian opinion, and good neighborly relations will follow automatically. In this connection I may report that at a public meeting held in Sofia on October 23 for the purpose of discussing the situation in the Dobrudja a resolution was adopted protesting against the actual state of affairs there so far as the Bulgarian minority is concerned and emphasizing that amelioration and consolidation of Bulgaro-Rumanian relations will be possible only when Bulgarians in Rumania may "benefit from the cultural autonomy granted minorities in all civilized countries". The resolution also calls upon European opinion to intervene at Bucharest in behalf of such cultural autonomy for the Bulgarians of the Dobrudja.

The meeting of King Boris and King Carol was accompanied by the rumor, apparently of Rumanian origin, that King Carol and Princess Eudoxia, the sister of King Boris, will soon marry. This rumor was officially denied in Sofia, but the visit of Mrs. Titulesco to the Bulgarian capital some days later and the presence in Sofia shortly thereafter of King Carol's good friend Professor Michel Manoilesco, for the purpose of giving a lecture before the Bulgarian Institute of International Studies, have served to keep the rumor at least partially afloat.

Respectfully yours,

Maynard B. Barnes,
Charged'Affaires ad interim.

710
MBB:MG
Enclosure: As stated.

Enclosure to Despatch No. 773
of November 4, 1933.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

His Majesty the King of the Bulgars, Boris III, and His Majesty King Carol II of Rumania met yesterday, October 30, at Girgiu, in Rumania.

After the two sovereigns had received the Rumanian guard of honor at Girgiu, they crossed to Rousse and there reviewed the Bulgarian guard of honor, where also the Bulgarian civil and military authorities were presented to His Majesty King Carol.

Then the two sovereigns, accompanied by their suites boarded the Rumanian yacht STEFAN CEL MARE which conducted them towards Zimmitch-Svichtoff, from where they returned to their point of departure.

A luncheon was served on the Royal Rumanian yacht by His Majesty King Carol in honor of his Majesty King Boris.

On this occasion, M. Mooshanoff, President of the Bulgarian Council, M. Vaida-Voevode, President of the Rumanian Council, and M. Titulesco, Rumanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, held on the Royal yacht a long conversation on the different questions touching the respective interests of the two states, as well as peace in the Balkans. The two Governments declared themselves desirous of regulating in the shortest times possible the questions pending between them and manifested their desire to collaborate in a spirit of cordial friendship in the work of consolidating peace.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, November 22, 1933.

No.780

SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS

Office of Economic Advisor
DEC 20 1933
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 22 1933
A-C/C
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

Assistant Secretary of State
DEC 21 1933
MR. SAYRE

DEC 13 1933
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74/58

FILED
DEC 26 1933

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department, with reference to my recent despatches on the visits of Messrs. Goemboes and Titulesco to Sofia and on the meeting between King Boris and King Carol, that the local press has announced that the preliminary arrangements for an exchange of views between the Bulgarian and Hungarian Governments on commercial questions are well advanced and that representatives of the two respective states will soon meet in Sofia to inaugurate negotiations looking to an increase in the commercial exchange between the two countries. The press has also announced

that

that the Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs has prepared a memorandum on the problems outstanding with Rumania, and I have learned indirectly from the Ministry that this document has now been sent to the Bulgarian Minister at Bucharest to be presented to the Rumanian Government in connection with the desire recently expressed by the sovereigns of the two states and by Mr. Titulesco and Mr. Mooshanoff that a serious effort be made to liquidate the pending questions. In this connections it should be noted that it is generally thought here that the recent cabinet change in Bucharest will cause a temporary delay in the proposed visit of King Boris and Mr. Mooshanoff to Rumania.

Respectfully yours,

Maynard B. Barnes.

Maynard B. Barnes,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim.

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LBB:MC

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

711.74/59

SEE 740.0011 Mutual Guarantee(Balkan)/12 FOR 1825

FROM Bulgaria (Barnes) DATED Jan.31, 1934

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Conversation between King Boris and King Carol and other Rumanian and Bulgarian officials concerning the proposed Balkan pact and relations between the two countries. Encloses copy of communique concerning the conversations. Willingness of Bulgaria to sign a non-aggression pact with Rumania.

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/60

740.0011 Mutual Guarantee(Balkan)/15

SEE ~~771.00/303x~~ FOR #830

FROM Bulgaria (Barnes) DATED Feb.5, 1934

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Bulgaro-Rumanian pending questions.

Statement of the Prime Minister before the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Sobranje on February 1 concerning -.

Wi

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
MILITARY INTEL. DIV.
4-4 FEB 27 2657-V734 1934
WAR DEPARTMENT

G-2 Report 3850

RUMANIA (Political)

Subject: Significance of the Royal Conference - Rumania and Bulgaria.

MAR 3 - 1934
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74/61

The visit of King Boris of Bulgaria, accompanied by the Royal party and Mr. Muchanoff, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Sinaia, Rumania, for conference with King Carol, on January 26th for a four-day stay, has been consummated.

The significance of the visit bids well for the future settlement of some irritating questions concerning minorities of the two countries residing in provinces now belonging to the other.

The questions which will undoubtedly be passed upon are as follows:

1. Concerning Bulgarian interests, and on which the Bulgarian Government recently addressed a note to Bucharest.

2. Similar questions concerning Rumania.

1.(1) Opening of schools and churches for the Bulgars in the Dobroudja.
(2) Regulation of the question of lands and damages occasioned to the Bulgars of the Dobroudja and other provinces of Rumania.
(3) Payment of pensions to military and civil personnel, ex-Bulgarian subjects, and now Rumanian subjects.
(4) Amnesty to the Bulgars condemned or confined to prisons.
(5) Relief from the sequestration imposed on the properties amenable to Bulgars in Rumania.
(6) Construction of a bridge over the Danube between Bulgaria and Rumania and investment of the benefices of the Zographos Monastery at Mount Athos.

2. Those questions of particular concern to Rumania and which will be passed upon are the following:

(1) Regulation of the Rumanian schools in the Department of Vidin and at Nicopolis.
(2) Establishment of aerial service between Bucharest, Sofia, and Salonica.
(3) Credits from Rumanian amenables (referred to in 5 above).
(4) Restitution of the archives (records) of the Agricultural and National Bank of the Dobroudja prior to 1913.

MAR 5 1934
FILED

From: M/A Belgrade (Bucharest) Report No.3514 Jan.31,1934
(page 1)

The conclusion of a regular commerce convention between the two countries will also be discussed. In the matter of territorial concessions mentioned in some quarters, Rumania categorically denies the rumor that she is disposed to make territorial concessions to Bulgaria.

Source: Athens press, Jan. 27th.

Comment by M/A:

Rumania appears to be willing to make some concessions to Bulgaria. She feels strongly the polite rebuff which Bulgaria gave the Titulesco efforts to entice Bulgaria into the Balkan pact. Although the two Kings are eager for amicable settlement, Bulgaria is wary and Tuchanoff will be careful to glean the gold from the pyrites. Three problems are of particular concern to Bulgaria in her relations with her neighbors, and the one that concerns Rumania particularly is the treatment of Bulgarian minorities within her borders. There is little doubt that Rumania is willing to make concessions on this score, but she expects reciprocity in the treatment of Rumanians residing on the Right bank of the Danube. The other two problems concerning Bulgaria's other neighbors will be more difficult of solution: The one concerns Yugoslavia's policy in Macedonia and to which no mutually satisfactory solution has yet been found, since Yugoslavia is unwilling to make concessions; the other concerns Greece and the Aegean Sea, issues between Bulgaria and Greece, provided for in the Neuilly Treaty, but not yet settled. These should not prove too difficult of solution, provided Greece is willing to grant concessions.

F. L. WHITLEY,
Lt. Colonel, Inf.,
Military Attache.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 73. Bucharest, February 3, 1934.

Subject: Visit of the King and Queen of Bulgaria to Rumania.

DEPT. OF STATE DIV. COM. & REG.
MAR - 7 34

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK Yes
To Field ✓
In U. S. A. ✓
Copy to MID
MAR 20 1934

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
A-CA
MAR 20 1934
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

771.74/62

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 8 - 1934
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74
note
874.001 B.64

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that the King and Queen of Bulgaria, His Majesty King Boris and his Queen Ioanna, arrived at Giurgiu, Rumania at 9:20 A.M. on Thursday, January 25, and at Bucharest at 11:30 A.M., where they were greeted by His Majesty King Carol, Queen Marie, the former Queen of Greece,- Queen Elizabeth,- and Prince Nicholas. To celebrate the occasion a most elaborate program for the reception and entertainment for Their Majesties began upon their arrival January 25 and continued until their departure on the evening of January 28.

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The Diplomatic Corps was permitted to participate in at least two of the functions for King Boris and Queen Ioanna, the first taking place at 3:30 o'clock on Thursday the 25th, being a gala concert at the National Theatre given by the Rumanian Philharmonic Orchestra, and the second occasion being the official reception at Peleş Castle, Sinaia, on the night of Friday, January 26th.

During the conversation with His Majesty King Boris he expressed his admiration for the United States of America and a sincere desire to at all times hold the cordial good will of the American people for Bulgaria. Her Majesty, Queen Ioanna, was particularly fullsome in her praise of the former American Minister to Bulgaria, the Honorable Henry W. Shoemaker, and his wife. Both of Their Majesties spoke English and expressed their pleasure in being able to do so.

Opinions were varied concerning the visit of the King and Queen of Bulgaria to Rumania at this particular time when the whole atmosphere in Rumania, and particularly Bucharest, is still charged with a high degree of tension and apprehension for the personal safety of the individual members of the Government, and of course especially for the safety of the person of King Carol. The opinion has been expressed from many sources that the members of the Government are receiving threatening letters from certain enemy sources, announcing the opponents of "the present order of things in Rumania" to assassinate other additional members of the Liberal Party. While this condition of uncertainty and uneasiness prevails, a

definite

definite announcement and then the arrival of the King and Queen of Bulgaria created quite a feeling of apprehension and concern. The entire city of Bucharest, and from Bucharest to Sinaia, a distance of some 80 miles or more, took on the appearance of an armed camp. The visiting sovereigns, having been received by King Carol and other members of the Royal Family and the Ministers of the Government, were guarded by reenforced and increased units of the standing army of Rumania and "a vast army of secret service men." It was apparent that a feeling of relief came over the entire population of Bucharest when the royal visit of the sovereigns from Bulgaria had been brought to a close and they had been safely returned to the border.

King Boris is popular with people. He possesses a fine, pleasing, gentle and courteous manner which is indeed appealing to all classes of people. His democratic manner in handling people, and the apparent ease with which he approaches the relations which he must keep with Rumania, has brought to him the admiration and acclaim of the Diplomatic Corps in Bucharest and a distinct majority of the population.

It is evident that the purpose and message of bringing King Boris to Rumania has not been successful. The Bulgars will not sign the new anticipated Balkan Pact. It is evident that Bulgaria under the leadership of her new Foreign Minister, Mr. Mouchanoff, is wedded to the policy of bi-lateral treaties and a desire to abide by the decisions of the League of Nations, rather than to look for a solution of the Balkan troubles through a

Balkan

Balkan Pact or Balkan Locarno.

It can be safely wagered that the visit of King Boris to Rumania has strengthened the friendly relations existing between Bulgaria and Rumania. Discussion of the revision of frontiers, which is the big question now, would have disrupted the whole procedure, and there is no evidence that this question was approached at this time.

At a luncheon on Friday noon at Peleş Castle, the UNIVERSUL announces that the Royal Family were present together with the members of the Rumanian Government, the Patriarch of the Rumanian Orthodox Church, the marshal of the Court, members of the Bulgarian Legation, the Rumanian Minister to Bulgaria, and other high dignitaries of both Rumania and Bulgaria. The following toasst were exchanged by King Carol and King Boris:

Toast of King Carol:

"I am very happy to be able with all my heart to welcome Your Majesties in Rumania and to assure you that this sentiment is fully shared by my people.

"The relations between Rumania and Bulgaria go back a long time; the graves of our soldiers of 1877, strewn upon the hills of Plevna and Griviţa, remain as eternal evidence.

"The visit of Your Majesties provides the pleasant occasion to recall these historic times which form the basis of the modern development of our nations. In these times when the entire world needs so much peace and good understanding, it pleases me to see in this royal visit a palpable sign of a future full of bright promise for the fulfillment of this desire, which I know, Sire, is as dear to your heart as to mine. I am convinced that only by a policy of sincere understanding and consolidation of the existing order can we come to this realization we all desire.

"The visit Your Majesties made me and Rumania today must mark in the future of our countries an important date which will reckon in the affirmation of the ideas of peace in the Balkans.

"From

"From the depth of my heart and knowing how much Your Majesty shares my desires, I raise my glass to the health of Your Majesty, of Her Majesty the Queen and of the august Royal Family, with the best wishes for the prosperity of Bulgaria."

Reply of King Boris:

"Sire,

"Thanking Your Majesty warmly for the beautiful words of welcome addressed to us, I wish to assure him that the Queen and myself are very happy, by the occasion offered us, to visit your Majesty and His Country. The cordial reception which I have found here is a homage paid to my country and it will be fully appreciated, I am sure, by the Bulgarian people.

"I am glad to state here that the memory of the hospitality your country so generously accorded the founders of Bulgarian liberation, as well as the glorious part played by Rumania in the war of 1877, is always alive with us and constitutes a precious element in all initiatives tending to a closer rapprochement between our countries.

"In these very trying times, more than ever, it is our duty to bend all our efforts to the task of peace and concord, which all peoples desire to see realized. And I am especially happy that Your Majesty considers our meeting as a contribution to this beautiful undertaking.

"I am deeply convinced that only a policy of understanding and confidence, serving the vital interests of our peoples, will assure a better future, which is merited, and will contribute to the consolidation of peace in the Balkans.

"Deeply moved by the brilliant and sincere reception which Your Majesty and the Rumanian people gave the Queen and me, I thank you with all my heart and raise my glass to the health of Your Majesty, Her Majesty Queen Marie and the August Royal Family, with best wishes for the prosperity of Rumania."

Whatever may be said in criticism of the condition of affairs in Rumania under King Carol, respect must be entertained for the efforts of His Majesty to consolidate Rumania with friendly relations to her neighboring countries, looking toward the maintenance of peace in the

Balkans

Balkans. It appears that the Rumanian King is backing his Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Titulescu, to the limit, and has given him unusually large powers to push with aggressiveness the signing of bilateral treaties and now the Balkan Pact which has for its primary purpose the maintenance of peace in the Balkans. United Rumania needs a long session of peace in order to develop the necessary strength to hold a dominating position of influence in the Balkans. It is apparent that Rumania is prepared to make every sacrifice possible, consistent with her national sovereignty, to keep the peace of the world as long as this policy maintains the position of her frontiers, hoping for a solution of her many vexing problems. It is perfectly apparent from a reading of the regal message delivered by His Majesty upon the occasion of the convening of the Rumanian Parliament on yesterday, February 1, 1934, that the Rumanian Army, together with the other branches of national defense, in the final analysis was the special object of favoritism of the King and the reliance of Rumania to maintain her present favorable position in regard to frontiers as against her neighbors.

Respectfully yours,

Alvin M. Owsley.

030.
Cr. 710.
AMO:EMS.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 75. Bucharest, February 3, 1934.

Subject: Visit of Mr. Mouchanoff, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, to Rumania.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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In U. S. A
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 8 - 1934
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
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MAR 22 1934

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that Mr. Mouchanoff, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, arrived in Bucharest on Sunday evening, January 28, to call upon Mr. Titulescu the Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is evident that the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs took advantage of the occasion of the visit of King Boris to Rumania, and accompanied His Majesty to this country and held several important conferences with King Carol and the statesmen of Rumania.

The Rumanian press announces that upon the occasion

of

of the visit of Mr. Mouchanoff to Mr. Titulescu on last Sunday evening, the Prime Minister of Rumania, Mr. Tătărescu, took part in the discussions. Several meetings were held, in the course of which the Rumanian Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister discussed with the Bulgarian Foreign Minister the relations of the two countries "in an attitude of trusting friendship." The Ministers have realized the necessity of putting forth every effort to strengthen the friendly relations between the two peoples, and agreed "to submit for examination by the Councils of Ministers for prompt decision the questions pending between the two countries, so that as fast as possible a satisfactory accord may be concluded." Particular attention is to be given to "reciprocal claims regarding the application of laws for agrarian reform and the payment of pensions. * * * The question of schools and churches was considered, and a discussion had of the measures which each country must undertake to bring about a condition of reciprocity with regard to their interested minorities." The press further indicates that "the Ministers examined the means for comsolidating the peace in the Balkans."

At a state dinner given by the Prime Minister, Mr. Tătărescu, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Rumania, Mr. Titulescu, on Saturday night, January 27, in honor of Mr. Mouchanoff, toasts were exchanged between Mr. Tătărescu and Mr. Mouchanoff. Outside of the expression of cordiality and the desire for the continuation of friendly relations between the two countries, there is little to be said of these speeches. The

Diplomatic

Diplomatic Corps, together with other officials of the Rumanian Government, were present.

It was definitely understood, as passed by word of mouth at the banquet table that night, that Mr. Mouchanoff had definitely stated to Mr. Titulescu and Mr. Tătărescu that the decision of the Rumanian statesmen concerning the Balkan Pact and the confirmation of existing frontiers, boundary lines, and perhaps other considerations, were impossible.

The Bulgarian statesman, Mr. Mouchanoff, presented a very splendid appearance. He is cordial, democratic and friendly in his address, and made a particular effort to have presented to him every person in attendance at the banquet. He is an elder statesman of commanding presence, and won the admiration of everybody present. There is something about these Bulgars that makes them appreciated when they come on a visit to Rumania.

Shortly before his departure from Rumania in company with King Boris, Mr. Mouchanoff gave a statement of his position on the important questions now pending a solu-
1/ tion between Rumania and Bulgaria, a copy of which is enclosed.

Respectfully yours,

Alvin M. Owsley.

Enclosure:
1- Statement of Mr. Mouchanoff to Rumanian press.

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AMO:EMS.

Enclosure No. 1 to Despatch
No. 75 of February 3, 1934
from the American Legation,
Bucharest.

TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT GIVEN TO THE RUMANIAN PRESS
BY MR. MOUCHANOFF, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BULGARIA.
(Taken from UNIVERSUL, pro-
Liberal organ, issue of
January 31, 1934.)

I am especially happy at the occasion which I have had to talk with the representatives of the Rumanian press and to express to them my sincere satisfaction on the brilliant and cordial reception which the Rumanian authorities and people gave to Their Majesties the King and Queen of Bulgaria who came to visit His Majesty the King of Rumania.

In addition, it is my duty to express my thanks for the attention with which the representatives of the press followed this event and for the sympathy manifested on this occasion toward Bulgaria and the Bulgarian people.

The friendship which binds our countries is old. It is bound by facts and historic memories and its psychologic bases must really be very old if the trials of recent years could not destroy it. There truly exist between us some questions in litigation and matters that are pending, but I am convinced that by this good will they can easily be resolved and for the good of both neighboring states. This is the unanimous desire of the two peoples.

In Rumania lives an important Bulgarian minority - which - this I must state in honor of the Rumanian people- is recognized as such by the Rumanian laws and constitutes a loyal and peacefully employed element. Placed in a position to develop itself quietly in the traditions of its national culture, it will constitute a sure and solid

tie

tie between the two peoples and states.

From the conversations which I have had with your eminent statesmen and with all the political personalities with whom I have had contact, I am very much satisfied.

Your Prime Minister, Mr. Tătărescu, has left impressions upon me which can not be eradicated. He is an energetic man with a broad culture, a man of action; I am glad that in the future I shall have a good friend in him.

We have clarified many of the questions which interest us and you have received the communication which shows the decisions taken. We desire to remove all those obstacles that might have an unfavorable influence on our relations and to make our friendship more sincere and profound. In this way we contribute to bringing peace in the Balkans and to consolidating the peace among the peoples of the Peninsula.

It is my duty, however, to point out that if we are in accord with the objective to be followed unswervingly,- namely, the peaceful and friendly inter-relations of the Balkan peoples,- we differ from the Rumanian statesmen on the character of the conventions which might be able to bring us more surely toward this objective. Bulgaria pursues a policy of peace and understanding with all peoples, and above all with its neighbors. It has no aggressive intentions toward anyone and is ready to embrace this declaration in respective diplomatic form. The Bulgarian people, however, cannot renounce those rights which they are guaranteed by the fact of its participation in the League of Nations.

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

740.0011 Mutual Guarantee(Balkan)/32

SEE ~~740.00/5000x~~ FOR #81

FROM Rumania (Owsley) DATED Feb.12, 1934

TO NAME 1—1127 ors

REGARDING:

Lack of comment on Bulgaria's failure to sign the Balkan Pact, probably due to a desire to foster more friendly relations between the two countries.

771.74/64

Wi

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, February 28, 1934.

A-C/c

No.847

SUBJECT: RUMANIAN MINISTER TO BULGARIA AND MR. MOOSHANOFF CONFER ON PENDING QUESTIONS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
A-C/C
APR 5 1934
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

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APR 6 - 1934

MAR 23 1934
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

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APR 10 1934

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that Mr. Stoica, the Rumanian Minister in Sofia, and Mr. Mooshanoff have conferred recently on the pending questions between Sofia and Bucharest, which formed the subject of conversations during the recent visit of the Bulgarian sovereigns and of Mr. Mooshanoff to Rumania. On February 24th Mr. Mooshanoff issued the following statement on his conference with Mr. Stoica:

"We have approached all important questions touching the economic relations of the two neighbor states. We have at the same time discussed in a more concrete fashion the problems

which

which were exposed in our memorandum to the Rumanian Government which was transmitted on the eve of the visit of His Majesty the King. Our aim is to find a practical solution of all questions which interest the two states".

In commenting to representatives of the local press on his statement, Mr. Mooshanoff said that good will and a desire for a prompt and practical solution of the pending questions are evident on both sides.

CONFIDENTIAL

I understand on good authority that Bucharest objects to the number of schools desired by the Bulgarian Government in the Dobrudja on the grounds that the cost of maintaining these schools will be excessive for Rumania in comparison with the cost of maintenance to Bulgaria of the thirty-six Rumanian schools proposed in the Vidin district. The Bulgarian reply to this objection is that if Rumania finds the cost excessive, the Bulgarian Government is willing to provide the funds. As the purpose behind the original proposal that the cost of the minority schools shall be borne by the state in which they are located was to eliminate the possibility of the schools becoming centers of irredentism, the Bulgarian reply is of course unsatisfactory to Bucharest.

Respectfully yours,

Maynard B. Barnes,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

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MBB:MC

2 Carbon copies
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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 126 Sofia, March 7, 1935.

Subject: Revival of the Bulgaro-Rumanian Minority Problem.

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

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DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74/66
FILED
APR 13 1935

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the declaration of Government policy made in the public address of General Zlateff on February 24 has been made the occasion for reviving the question of the treatment of Bulgarian and Rumanian minorities in the two countries.

General Zlateff's reference to Rumania, as quoted on page 5 of the second enclosure to my despatch

No.

874.00/518

No. 123 of February 27 was as follows:

> "Our policy with regard to Rumania is also inspired by the desire of peace and understanding. The visit of Their Majesties to Bucharest and Mr. Titulesco's visit to Sofia are significant indications of a friendship based on the interests of the two peoples. Let us hope that it will help us in settling the questions in which both countries are concerned and the liquidation of which will be a considerable contribution to the cause of peace in the Balkans".

This comment followed similar paragraphs concerning relations with Yugoslavia and Turkey and preceded a paragraph discussing the relations with Greece. Considered in this context as a part of a general statement of foreign policy, the remarks might reasonably be considered to have no special significance. Persons to whom I have spoken generally agree that General Zlateff's declaration of foreign policy, if somewhat more spirited and specific, probably did not intend to carry implications not inherent in whatever the Government may have stated since last May.

I have learned, however, that a few days thereafter the Rumanian Minister prepared an aide memoire listing the Rumanian grievances, which was formally placed before the Bulgarian Government. At the same time, if one can judge by the press reactions here, the Bucharest newspapers were making much of the implications of the Zlateff declaration. While General Zlateff would very possibly prefer to await a more tranquil period in both domestic and foreign politics before taking up the matter of Rumanian claims, he rose to the occasion and promised to send a personal representative into

the

the Vidin and Lom districts, who should report to him personally as to the treatment of persons of Rumanian origin in that region.

It will be recalled that Mr. Titulesco last year mentioned that for a country of Rumania's wealth the Bulgarian expropriation claims in the Dobroudja could be adjusted without great hardship if an agreement could be reached on other disputed questions. Beyond the property claims, the Rumanian view, at least as expressed by its Legation at Sofia, is that the minority questions (schools, teachers, priests, state employees, language districts et cetera) should be settled on a basis of numerical equality.

I am informed that the Rumanian Government has consular officers in northern Bulgaria who have furnished to the Sofia Legation detailed statements of each individual grievance. It is claimed that in addition to the areas more or less recognized as comprising people of Rumanian origin, and where certain minority rights are extended, there are several villages along the Danube where the Rumanian population is not recognized. Among the complaints filed are said to be: insufficiency of Rumanian schools, hostility toward Rumanian priests recently coming into such districts for religious and educational work, the obligatory use of the Bulgarian language in intercourse with government organs, and the refusal to consider the candidacy of persons of Rumanian stock for the post of village mayor.

The Sofia newspapers, perhaps in accordance with a suggestion from the Government, have been relatively

mild

mild in their reply. There seems to be no disposition to proceed in the immediate future to a formal settlement by diplomatic negotiation.

The Bulgarian argument is, I understand, that the number of Rumanian schools along the Danube is quite adequate for the real Rumanian population; that to grant numerical equality for schools, teachers, priests, et cetera as compared with the Bulgarian claims in the Dobroudja would be entirely disproportionate to the size of the respective minorities; that the activities of certain Rumanian teachers and priests in some districts has led to the development of "Rumanian" colonies where hitherto the question of minorities had not arisen. On the question of the use of the Bulgarian language in communications to government organs, and the eligibility of Rumanian residents for appointment as mayors, the Bulgarians rest their case on a comparison with the same privileges as extended to the Bulgarians of the Dobroudja, and invite an impartial opinion of the degree of toleration shown by this country generally in the matter of minorities.

Underlying the whole matter is the very deep mistrust of Bulgarians in general of Rumanian frontier policy. Especially the tendency to establish the shepherd population of Kutzo-Wallachs in the lower Dobroudja at the expense of the indigeneous population is resented.

Respectfully yours,

F. A. Sterling

File 840.1
CWC/MM
Copy to Bucharest.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/87

SEE 874.00/554 FOR #235

FROM Bulgaria (Sterling) DATED June 4, 1936

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: Differences between Rumania and Bulgaria over financial claims and counterclaims.

Copy of interview given to the press by the Prime Minister in which he commented on -.

Sofia, Bulgaria, June 4, 1936.

No. 235

Subject: Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Press on internal and external affairs.

8794.00/5354

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

771.74

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a translation of an interview recently given to the Press by Mr. Kiosséivanoff, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, on internal and external affairs.

The pending negotiations with the Roumanian Government to which he refers concern the existing differences between the two countries on two sets of questions: financial claims and counterclaims, and,

second,

second, questions relating to the minorities in matters of schools, churches, etc.

The negotiations which began in Sofia on April 24 are being conducted by officials of the Foreign Office on the one side and the Roumanian Minister to Bulgaria on the other. They are said to be progressing satisfactorily.

Respectfully yours,

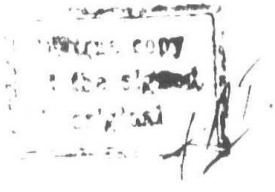
F. A. Sterling,
American Minister.

Enclosure:

Prime Minister's statements.

File No. 800

FAS/JRT.



Enclosure to despatch No. 235, dated June 4, 1936
from the American Legation at Sofia, Bulgaria.

TRANSLATION.

Prime Minister's statements.

June 1, 1936.

"The international situation in Europe is characterized lately by an extraordinary complexity. In these circumstances the loyal policy of peace and international cooperation followed with firmness and perseverance by Bulgaria acquires a particular importance. In the general atmosphere of mistrust and increasing insecurity Bulgaria stands out as a country sincerely attached to peace, entirely absorbed by her efforts for economic and political prosperity and manifesting on each occasion a correct, loyal and friendly attitude her neighbors and more distant countries. Consequently, the international situation of Bulgaria is rapidly and considerably improving owing to a regained confidence which is an essential factor in the favorable development of international relations.

"In these circumstances we consider with the greatest calm the last conferences of the Little Entente and of the Balkan Entente. The efforts of our neighbors at these conferences have been directed at a goal which is also ours, i.e. the maintenance of peace. It is true that certain organs of the international press have emphazized that the only aim of the conversations between the states of the Balkan Entente was to create mutual guarantees against Bulgaria. To my mind these assertions are not accurate as all our neighbors without exception find the best guarantee in Bulgaria herself, in the pacific spirit of our people and the correct and loyal policy of the Bulgarian Government.

"Our relations with Turkey may be characterized by an increasing friendliness in the spirit of the agreement signed two years ago by the two states. The reception we accorded to the Turkish demand for a revision of the status of the Straits has been appreciated at its real value by the Government as well as by the public opinion of our south-eastern neighbor. For this reason the endeavours of a provocator to sow hatred against Bulgaria in the columns of a paper of Istanboul have had almost no response in the Turkish press. The tendencious interpretation given by certain Turkish circles to the celebration of certain dates of our history

our history cannot lead us to swerve from the path we have chosen to strengthen and develop the friendly relations between the two countries.

"A decisive step has been made in our relations with Roumania by our consent to the opening of negotiations on the litigious and pending questions between the two countries. These negotiations which are conducted in Sofia in an atmosphere of sincerity and with a careful consideration of all problems, cannot fail, sooner or later and despite the existing differences, to lead to positive results. The understanding that it is inadmissible that two countries like Bulgaria and Roumania bound by many memories from their past, should live for decades with pending questions between them, will, I am sure, prevail over misapprehensions which bring a part of the Roumanian press to demand, eighteen years after the great war, a measure as brutal as the exchange of minority populations.

"As regards Greco-Bulgarian relations, it should be pointed out that the best intentions for their future development exist in Sofia as well as in Athens. Unfortunately there still exists between the two countries a state of tariff war caused by the unilateral denunciation by Greece of the Greco-Bulgarian Treaty of Commerce. Although Greece has consulates in all the most important cities in Bulgaria, we have not received yet the consent of the Greek Government for the opening of consulates in Greece. Noting with satisfaction the friendly declarations of the Greek Government, we hope that the way will be soon paved for the solution of the pending questions between our two countries.

"It is well known that the relations between Bulgaria and Yougoslavia have been marked in the last years by a happy evolution which progresses slowly but surely owing to the efforts of the two Governments and with the full approval and cooperation of the two peoples. Maybe the results achieved so far have not completely met the expectations of certain circles; one should, however, take into consideration the progress made so far which permits one to consider the future with confidence and tranquillity.

Internal situation.

"The tasks of internal policy are determined to a large extent by the moral, economic and financial crisis of the last years which forces all nations to acquire a strong national discipline and to increase their energy. This is the essential mission of the Government over which I have the honor to preside. The task of the present regime created in the exceptionally difficult circumstances of these last years, is to normalize the situation. But what does "normalization" mean? It is a question on which there is a great deal of uncertainty and speculation. Normalization does not mean a retrogression to the situation prior to May 19 when the people were divided into hostile political camps and the best efforts of the nation were wasted in useless struggle.

struggle. The politicians who even today endeavour, in the spirit of a vicious past, to divide the people into hostile fronts, are not seeking normalization. The latter will come only when the Bulgarian people feel united in its national ideals, disciplined in its efforts towards economic, cultural and political prosperity. From this point of view one may emphasize with satisfaction that a happy evolution has occured in the masses, an evolution to which all those who believe themselves to be the leaders of the people should add their efforts by sacrificing their private interests to the general interests of the nation.

"When the idea of an internal national union and the understanding of the necessity of a strong national discipline takes hold of the entire people, one will be in a position to say that the normal situation which will lead to a general progress of the nation, has come."

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 760h.7412 Non-Aggression/5 FOR #230

FROM Rumania (Hibbard) DATED Jan. 7,1937
TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Yugoslav-Rumanian-Bulgarian relations.
Rumanian attitude towards the proposed Yugoslav-Bulgarian non-aggression and friendship pact.

771.74/68

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/69

SEE 762.63/650 FOR # 168

FROM Yugoslavia (Lane) DATED March 10, 1938.
TO NAME 1-1127 grs

REGARDING: The Rumanian Minister at Belgrade informed of improvement in Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations.

j

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 811.48 Floods/208 FOR Memorandum

FROM State Department A-S (Berle) DATED Sept. 24, 1938.

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Bulgarian claim to the Dobruja discussed by Turkish Ambassador, in connection with war-like feelings existing in various parts of the world at present.

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771.74/70

FP 771.74

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/71

SEE 770.00/590 FOR Despatch #176

FROM Bulgaria (Atherton) DATED November 28, 1938.

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: Rumanian-Bulgarian, relations.

Report of demonstration in front of Rumanian Legation in Sofia on the anniversary of the Treaty of Neuilly as a result of certain incidents on the Rumanian-Bulgarian border involving the shooting of Bulgar customs official and arrest of two Bulgar soldiers.

GMB

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/773 FOR Tel.65- 5pm

FROM Poland (Biddle) DATED April 11,1939

TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Bulgarian- Rumanian relations. There have been grounds recently for worry lest Bulgaria,, as an instrument of Berlin machinations, attempt to seize the Rumanian oil fields.

fp

771.74/72

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/73

SEE 771.00/67 FOR #833

FROM Rumania (Hibbard) DATED April 5, 1939

~~701~~ NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Rumanian Foreign Minister to visit Ankara for purpose of soliciting Turkish intermediation in bringing about a rapprochement between Rumania and Bulgaria.

ml

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 871.51/1056 FOR Tel. #502- 8pm

FROM Great Britain (Kennedy) DATED April 17,1939
TO NAME

1—1127 U.P.O.

771.74/74

REGARDING: Statement of Leith-Ross that the Rumanian Government is trying to work out some kind of an arrangement with Bulgaria on territory that will satisfy Bulgaria and help bring her along on the peace front.

fp

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/959 FOR Tel. #46, 7 p.m.

FROM Turkey (MacMurray) DATED Apr. 18, 1939

TO

NAME

1—1127 o p o

REGARDING: Foreign Minister expressed moderate hopefulness of the success of an effort in which he is participating to bring about an understanding between Rumania and Bulgaria.

mb

771.74/75

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.71/21 Confidential File FOR Tel#564 7 p.m.

FROM Great Britain (Kennedy) DATED April 26, 1939

~~TO~~ 1777 NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Britain's suggestion that Rumania make conciliatory gesture to Bulgaria by agreeing to a future discussion of the Dobrudja question in an attempt to secure Bulgarian entry into the Balkan entente.

ml

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/1284 FOR #229

FROM Bulgaria (Millard) DATED Apr. 17, 1939

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Steps to persuade Rumania to make territorial concessions to Bulgaria either now or at some more feasible future time;

Conversation with Prime Minister who stated that-had not been taken.

mb

771.74/76

EU

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MAY 16 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REB 1—1336

FROM GRAY

Sofia

Dated May 15, 1939

Rec'd 7:15 p. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

29, May 15, noon.

Though Bulgarian telegraph agency has sent abroad a statement of the information available here regarding the shooting of twenty-three Bulgarians in southern Dabrudja, strict censorship has suppressed all information or comment in the local press in order to prevent incidents. The shooting is now generally known and public opinion is indignant and excited. It is believed here that the purpose of the shooting was to intimidate the Bulgarian population in southern Dobrudja in connection with the hopes raised concerning the return of that territory to Bulgaria.

MILLARD

JRL

LMS

771.74/77

771.74

FP

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1939
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MAY 19 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CA

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone (Br)

FROM

SOFIA

Dated May 18, 1939

Rec'd 8:40 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

31, May 18, 2 p.m.

Referring to my telegram No. 29, May 15.

The Prime Minister informed me yesterday that he had examined the case of the Dobrudja shootings from every angle and could find no justification whatever for the act. He had prevented publication of the report in Bulgaria and it was only when the Rumanian Government had sent telegrams putting the blame on Bulgaria that he authorized the sending abroad to press associations of a brief telegram giving the information obtained from the men who escaped. He said that he was restraining popular demonstrations with great difficulty and as a result his internal position was becoming difficult. He could not yet foresee the final outcome.

As regards the question of the return of southern Dobrudja he said that while the Rumanian Government had until recently been conciliatory King Carol had been consistently adamant. Since the British guarantee the

Rumanian

771.74/78

GDG

Rumanian Government had refused to consider the question further and the British would give no diplomatic support.

With regard ,to the question of the Aegean he feels that the intransigeant attitude of the Turks indicates that they hope eventually to seize western Thrace for themselves. Asked regarding the reports that the Turks had greatly strengthened their forces on the Bulgarian frontier, the Prime Minister replied that after the conquest of Albania six Turkish divisions had been moved to that frontier and two divisions to Istanbul garrison. In reply to his request for an explanation the Turkish authorities had stated that these troops were put there to protect Turkey against a possible Italian menace. The Prime Minister said, however, that these troops were not on the Thracian frontier but mostly on the north and their disposition could only be interpreted as a threat (to?) of Bulgaria's flank should the latter make any move toward the Dobrudja frontier. Bulgaria on the other hand, the Prime Minister asserted, has not moved one soldier.

Asked why he thought the Turks were so anxious to protect the Dobrudja he said he assumed that they feared that should Bulgaria be satisfied there she would then look to the Aegean and he endeavored to refute this thesis.

He

He could see no likelihood of a successful Balkan bloc including Bulgaria.

As concerns Russia he believed that owing to fear of internal difficulties that country would not attempt any foreign military venture, not even Bessarabia and could only be counted on to fight in self-defense.

In conclusion he repeated that his whole policy is to settle Bulgaria's territorial claims peacefully and to keep Bulgaria neutral, independent, and intact. So far none of these claims has been satisfied but he feels that he can at least congratulate himself that Bulgaria is under obligation to no one.

MILLARD

NPL

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/1357 FOR Tel. #124, 8 p.m.

FROM Yugoslavia (Lane) DATED May 6, 1939

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Gafencu received advice from British and French Governments not to give any part of Dobrudja to Bulgaria.

mb

771.74/79 GDG

771.74/79

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/1482 FOR Tel. #74, 5 p.m.

FROM Turkey (MacMurray) DATED May 15, 1939

TO NAME

1—1127 o.f.o

REGARDING: Although the impasse between Bulgaria and Rumania had taken a turn for the worse, there is hope of reconciling Bulgaria with the Balkan Entente.

mb

771.74/80 GDG

740.00/1482

ROYAL BULGARIAN LEGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Eu

On the 9th of May 22 Bulgarian inhabitants of the Village of Belitza, located in Dobrujda Rumania were slain.

Telegram emanating from Bucharest tried to represent the victims as comitadjis alleged to have crossed over from Bulgaria with a view of engaging in spying or criminal activities on the persons and properties of notables in Dobrujda.

The true story is quite different. During the recent Rumanian mobilization about 60 Bulgarians from Belitza, District of Tutrakan (Turtukai) deserted finding refuge on Bulgarian territory. Following that the wives, sisters and daughters of the fugitives were called to the police post where they were submitted to the most brutal assaults.

On the 15 of April 100 soldiers from the Rumanian Garrison in Tutrakan went to Belitza and committed the same outrages as well as rioting. On the 9th of May at three o'clock in the afternoon 25 Bulgarians from the same Village of Belitza were arrested in accordance with a list supplied in advance and forced to sign a declaration without being permitted to know its contents. They were then incarcerated in a cellar filled with water up to their knees. In the early hours of the morning of the 10th of May this group having their hands tied and escorted by a large group of gendarmes carrying with them two light machine guns were taken towards Silistra (Dorostol). Within one and one and one-half kilometers from the village, in the forest of Indjekeuy, one of the gendarmes left the group and disappeared into the bushes, where from he fired a shot. That was the gruesome signal for the butchery. Immediately the machine guns were put into action and 22 of the 25 Bulgarians fell, the wounded being killed with bayonets.

F. W. 771.74/81

ROYAL BULGARIAN LEGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Only three men, although wounded managed to escape being slain and after two nights in hiding in the forest succeeded in crossing the frontier and reaching Bulgaria.

The description of this savage butchery has filled the population of the frontier arrea with horror. Public opinion in Bulgaria is deeply affected and indignation runs high.

Washington, D. C.
May 16, 1939.

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
MAY 17 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
MAY 17 1939
MR. BERLE

DATE: May 16, 1939

DIVISION OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MAY 22 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: The Bulgarian Minister
Mr. Pierrepont Moffat, Chief, Division of European Affairs

COPIES TO:

771.74
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
MAY 22 1939
MR. WELLES

771.74/81

o-f-o 1—1493

The Bulgarian Minister called this afternoon to give me the official Bulgarian account of the recent incident in Dobrujda when twenty-two Bulgarians were slain. Mr. Millard our Chargé in Sofia had telegraphed us that the Bulgarian version had already been sent to Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
MAY 23 1939
DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

The Minister in commenting said that the Government was anxious to prevent the incident assuming undue importance in view of the tension now existing in southeastern Europe. Its implications, however, had seriously disturbed the Bulgarian Government which was already sufficiently worried by the fact that her two East-West neighbors, which had in the recent past been quite friendly to Sofia were obviously drifting

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JUN 3 1939

into

into opposing camps.

The Minister continued that Bulgaria would remain neutral as long as possible but that with Rumania and Greece both declining to take a broad-minded view, and restore to Bulgaria territory that was rightly hers, they were not facilitating Bulgaria's task.

PM

Pierrepont Moffat

Eu:PM:ASD

771.74/82

WAS MISSING FROM THE FILE

WHEN THESE RECORDS WERE

PREPARED FOR MICROFILMING

771.74/82

Decimal File Number

Name GK Haines

Date 11/21/79

PNA
WEM PM
WAT
RRS
SP

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

June 10, 1939.

Summary of despatch No. 252 from Legation at Sofia dated May 18, 1939.

Subject: Conversation with the Bulgarian Prime Minister

M. Kiosseivanoff exhibited some temper when referring to the killing of the Bulgarians in Southern Dobrudja. He said that for four years he had done all in his power to keep a calm public opinion regarding Bulgaria's territorial claims and that this action of Rumanian officials has made his position most difficult. Several demonstrations in the streets of Sofia took place -- one of relatively sizable proportions. The Prime Minister cited the fact that there had been no semblance of a trial; that the police were equiped with machine guns; and that the wounded were bayoneted to death.

With regard to Bulgarian territorial aspirations in the Southern Dobrudja, the Prime Minister said that prior to the British guarantee of Rumania, M. Gafencu had implied that he was willing to make concessions to Bulgaria but that he could not do so. M. Kiosseivanoff added that King Carol was not disposed to make such concessions. Since the

British

British guarantee the Rumanians had refused to consider the question further.

With respect to an outlet on the Aegean, the Prime Minister felt that the long range policy of Turkey was to seize Western Thrace, knowing that this was always possible as long as it belonged to Greece, but realizing that should the Bulgarians occupy it, it would be a different problem. In this connection he found it significant that after the Treaty of Lausanne the Turks had refused to permit the removal from Thrace of a large Turkish population.

With respect to Turkish troop movements, M. Kiosseivanoff said that six divisions had been moved to the Bulgarian frontier and two divisions to the Istanbul garrison after the conquest of Albania. The Turkish explanation had been that the troop movements had been carried out to protect Turkey against a possible menace from Italy. The Bulgarian Prime Minister pointed out, however, that these troops were stationed on the northern frontier and not in Thrace, adding that such a disposition could only be interpreted as a threat to Bulgaria's flank in case of any action towards the Dobrudja.

Regarding the formation of a Balkan or Black Sea bloc, M. Kiosseivanoff remarked

that

that Yugoslavia was no longer a free agent, that the most she could do was to remain neutral, though friendly to the axis. He felt that circumstances beyond Belgrade's control had altered Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations. Turkey in the meanwhile had declared itself for the Western Powers and thus the mainstays of the Balkan Entente were torn apart, as Greece and Rumania were uncertain factors.

Russia, he felt, had again become an important factor in Balkan affairs. At the end of the conversation he reiterated his policy of arriving at a peaceful settlement of Bulgarian claims, of keeping Bulgaria intact, independent and neutral. Bulgaria had received help from nobody and by the same token she was under no obligations.

Eu:Coe:AMR.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 252 Sofia, May 18, 1939.

Subject: Conversation with the Prime Minister.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUN 2 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1939 MAY 31 PM 3 28

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ONI
JUN 26 1939

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
JUN 16 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 30 1939
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Supplementing my telegram No. 31, of May 18, 2 p.m., briefly summarizing a conversation with the Prime Minister, I have the honor to report more fully in that connection.

Believing that the aroused and indignant state of public opinion here which has resulted from the recent killing of twenty-two Bulgarians by Rumanian police in the Dobrudja afforded a suitable opportunity, I requested an appointment to see the Prime Minister on April 17 for the....

771.74/83
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JUL 5 - 1939
G-HR

the purpose of ascertaining his views not only on that incident and its possible effects, but also on his Government's present outlook in general, particularly as regards the questions currently at issue between Bulgaria and its neighbors.

With reference to the killings he displayed some temper, a most unusual occurrence for him which may be explained by the fact that I followed the Rumanian Minister. He said he had examined the case with the greatest care and regretted he could find nothing to justify the act. In order that the matter should be quietly arranged between the two Governments, however, he had not permitted any report of the incident to be published in Bulgaria and it was only after the Rumanians put the blame on Bulgarian Comitadjis that he authorized the sending abroad of the brief telegram, a 1/ translation of which is enclosed, giving the information obtained from the three men who escaped the shooting and crossed the frontier into Bulgaria.

Mr. Kiosseivanoff said that for four years he had done all in his power to calm public opinion in regard to Bulgaria's territorial claims and that this shooting by Rumanian officials had made his position difficult. A number of times since the incident he had had to have measures taken to prevent demonstrations against Rumania and was now accused of being unpatriotic. Such a thing had not happened in the Balkans for years, he continued, and at a time of international tension he did

not....

not know where it might lead. It may be noted that in spite of the measures which have been taken demonstrations have occurred, notably one of relatively sizable proportions last evening.

The Prime Minister named as the particularly reprehensible features of the event the fact that there had been no semblance of a trial; that the police accompanying them were equipped with machine guns; that except for one of the three men who escaped there were no wounded, which confirmed the eye witness account that the wounded were bayoneted to death; that one Major Popescu who was the officer responsible, had previously been implicated in a similar terroristic act against Bulgarians. He said that a Rumanian from Macedonia who was among those killed had warned the Bulgarians of impending danger and added that information had been received in Sofia to the effect that some of the Bulgarians who were killed had been witnesses against Popescu when he was tried after the previous incident.

Asked whether there was any truth in the report that soundings had been made by the Rumanian and British Governments regarding Southern Dobrudja, the Prime Minister said that prior to the British guarantee of Rumania M. Gafencu had said that if the matter were up to him, he would give that territory to Bulgaria, but he could not. The Prime Minister said that the "but" was King Carol. Since the British guarantee Rumania had refused to consider the question further. As regards the British position, the Prime Minister said that the most the British Minister here could say regarding

Southern...

Southern Dobrudja was that the two countries should arrange it between themselves and that Britain had not guaranteed Rumania's frontiers.

I asked Mr. Kiosseivanoff what he considered to be the fundamental reason for the unwillingness of Turkey and Great Britain to consider the granting to Bulgaria of an outlet to the Aegean. The Prime Minister replied that he could only interpret the Turkish attitude to mean that her long range policy was to seize Western Thrace for themselves, knowing that this was always possible as long as it belonged to Greece, but once the Bulgarians occupied it, it would be a very different problem. He gave as one of his reasons for this interpretation that should Bulgaria be granted such an outlet Turkey would presumably be given a wide strip of territory along the Maritza to the Aegean, but in spite of this they were not interested. Furthermore, after the Treaty of Lausanne the Turks refused to permit the removal from Thrace of the large Turkish population. He repeated the familiar Bulgarian argument that an outlet to the Aegean would be further protection to the Straits and that it was Bulgaria who saved the Straits for Turkey in the last war, etc. He thought that the Greeks would not resist an Italian advance to Salonika and that the presence of Bulgarians in Western Thrace would be a further protection to Turkey against Italy. All of this further convinced him, he said, that the real reason for Turkish reluctance was her own ambitions in this area.

767.68

As regards the British attitude on this question, Mr. Kiosseivanoff would only say that they did not wish

to....

to have their Mediterranean problem complicated by having another country in the Aegean.

Asked whether it was true that the Turks had recently greatly strengthened their forces on the frontier with Bulgaria, Mr. Kiosseivanoff replied that six divisions had been moved to that frontier and two divisions to the Istanbul garrison after the conquest of Albania. He had requested an explanation from the Turkish authorities, who said that the troop movements were carried out to protect Turkey against a possible menace from Italy. Mr. Kiosseivanoff pointed out, however, that these troops were stationed on the northern frontier and not in Thrace. Such a disposition, he said, could only be meant as a threat to Bulgaria's flank in case of any action toward the Dobrudja. He added that Rumania had at one time sent five divisions to the Dobrudja and even the Yugoslavs had strengthened their eastern frontier forces. Bulgaria, on the other hand, had not moved one soldier. Asked if he could explain why the Turks were so anxious to protect the Dobrudja, he replied that they presumably feared that should Bulgaria's claims in the north be satisfied, she would then be in a position to concentrate her efforts on her claim for an outlet to the Aegean. Though he endeavored to refute this thesis on the ground that satisfaction in the Dobrudja would create an excellent effect in Bulgaria and less eagerness for an Aegean outlet, I venture to doubt that this would necessarily be the case. Mr. Kiosseivanoff also said with a touch of asperity that if the Turks

counted...

counted on the Rumanians in a pinch they would be seriously disillusioned.

Asked regarding the possibility of forming a Balkan or "Black Sea" bloc and whether the problem of satisfying Bulgaria was not the same in either case, he said it was the same problem. Yugoslavia was no longer a free agent and the most she could do would be to remain neutral though friendly to the axis. Though he was assured that there had been no change in Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations , he felt that circumstances beyond Yugoslavia's control had altered those relations. Turkey had now declared herself for the western powers. Thus, the mainstays of the Balkan Entente were torn apart, and Greece and Rumania were uncertain factors. How, he asked, could any Balkan bloc be built ? Furthermore, Bulgaria was essential to any successful bloc, which was shown by the fact that her entry on the side of the central powers in the Great War had "prolonged the war two years," and none of the Balkan countries, he said, were disposed to make any concession to Bulgaria, which was a prerequisite to her entry into such a bloc.

Asked regarding Russia's position, he said that after having withdrawn from Balkan affairs for several years, Russia had again become an important factor. He thought, however, that owing to her fear of domestic difficulties Russia would not attempt any foreign military venture, would not even risk taking Bessarabia and could only be counted on to fight in defense of Russian territory.

At the end of the conversation, he reiterated that his policy is to arrive at a peaceful settlement of

Bulgaria's.....

Bulgaria's claims, to keep Bulgaria intact, independent and neutral. Bulgaria had received no help from any country, but he could at least congratulate himself that by the same token she was under no obligations.

Respectfully yours,

Hugh Millard

Hugh Millard
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure:
Translation of
telegram from Bulgarian
Telegraph Agency.

File 710
HM/MM

4 Carbon Copies
Received

Enclosure to despatch No.252,
of May 18, 1939, Sofia.

Translation of telegram sent by
the Bulgarian Telegraphic Agency
on May 13, 1939.

Twenty-two Bulgarians, inhabitants of the village Belitza Dobroudja Rumania were massacred May 9 stop Telegrams sent from Bucarest by various agencies endeavour present victims as Comitadjis coming from Bulgaria for purposes of spying and harm persons and property Dobroudja Paragraph Truth is entirely different dtop During recent Rumanian mobilization sixty Bulgarians village Belitza district Toutrakan parenthesis Turtukai parenthesis deserted taking refuge Bulgarian territory stop Then sisters doughters of the fugitives were taken gendarmerie post and ignominiously raped stop April fifteen hundred soldiers Toutrakan garrison made for village Belitza indulging in same abuses as well as plundering stop May seven in forest Indje Keuy the Bulgarian Nicolas Tcholakov of Belitza was murdered by nine bullets from Rumanian gendarmes stop May nine fifteen o'clock twenty-five Bulgarians, all inhabitants village Belitza were arrested in accordance with list prepared in advance They were forced sign declaration without knowing contents after which they were imprisoned in cave previously filled with water to knees where they passed night stop May ten three o'clock the twenty-five Bulgarians comma hands tied comma were accompanied by strong escort of gendarmes with two machine guns were led toward Silistra parenthesis Dorostor parenthesis stop At one kilometre and half from village in forest Indje Keuy a gendarme left escort disappeared in forest and shot once stop This was macabre signal for killing stop Machine guns were put into action and twnety-two of the twenty-five arrested fell stop Wounded were finished off with bayonet stop Only three able escape massacre and hiding in forests after two nights nightmares comma wounded and exhausted comma succeeded passing Bulgaria stop Their tales of cowardly killing filled frontier population with horror stop Bulgarian public opinion is deeply moved and excited this savage act,

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 893. Bucharest, May 12, 1939.

Subject: Rumanian-Bulgarian Relations.

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUN 1 1939
File Cr
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1939 MAY 31 PM 3 20
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Distribution Instructions
Grade for

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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JUN 9 1939
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
JUN 9 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 28 1939
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74/84

FILED
JUN 30 1939

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on the evening of May 9th last twenty of a party of twenty-three Bulgarian comitadjis who were being taken under police escort to Constanza for trial were fatally shot and the three remaining were wounded. The story runs that the party was attacked in a forest by unknown persons and that the escort, presumably assuming that the prisoners were endeavoring to escape, shot them down. None of the police was injured, nor were any traces found of the alleged attacking party. This story and that of the shooting of Codreanu and his lieutenants "while trying to escape" follow astonishingly parallel

lines

G-HR

lines.

There are two suppositions regarding this summary action. The first is that these were Bulgarian nationalist agitators who have crossed the border into the lower Dobrudja and have been creating difficulties for the local authorities for some time past because of their political activities. The second is that they were part of a band of Bulgarian marauders who have been terrifying the inhabitants of the lower Dobrudja and were responsible for the murder of a rich landowner there.

No mention whatever has been made of this incident in the local press, but it has been sufficiently verified to be worthy of credence. I understand that----a London radio broadcast carried the announcement----the Rumanian Government has sent an official mission to the Dobrudja to investigate the circumstances of this affair and to report on conditions and sentiments among the Bulgarian minorities there.

Naturally, such an incident will not serve to ameliorate the chronically strained relations between Rumania and Bulgaria. These relations have shown no signs of improvement during recent months. In my telegram No. 92 of April 26, 8 p.m., I mentioned that the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had told me that his Government had invited Bulgaria to participate in the meeting of the Economic Council of the Balkan Entente which will open in Bucharest next week, but had received no reply. During the last few days of April the Rumanian press

began

began to take notice of increased revisionist agitation, both by the press and by public manifestation, in Bulgaria. On April 28th, three outstanding Bucharest newspapers retorted as follows:

ROMANIA

"In all objectivity, our neighbors should recognize the loyalty of the attitude of the Rumanian Government regarding the Bulgarian minority in Rumania, whose leaders have adhered to the National Renaissance Front and figure in the Superior Council..... it is necessary to reaffirm our unshakeable decision not to admit any discussions or haggling over our frontiers."

TIMPUL

"The Bulgarian agitations, so contrary to the principles on which is based the security of the Balkan States today, are destined to remain sterile.

UNIVERSUL

"This return to an attitude which, in the past, rendered impossible any entente with the neighboring State, appears all the more strange at a moment when the international situation is so critical."

On May 1st last, Prime Minister Calinescu delivered an address before a Trades Congress in which he alluded to this general problem in the following terms (CURENTUL, May 3, 1937):

".....It is said that in the press of a neighboring country certain claims against Rumania are being aired. It is even said that these claims are being presented as supported by other foreign powers.

"Such agitations are not of a nature to facilitate the good-neighborly and friendly relations which we desire. Such methods are not of a nature to clarify situations. For this reason I wish to declare strongly

here

here that at no moment has an authorized representative of any foreign power made us any suggestion regarding any sacrifices to be made by us in connection with the territory of the country. Nowhere have I seen or felt an encouragement of such agitations. On the contrary, I can affirm that everywhere the policy of the Rumanian Government---a policy of dignity and defense of the integrity of the country----has found a full understanding.

"Furthermore, there are foreign leaders who said to us that had we not observed such an attitude, they would have recommended and suggested it to us.

"Therefore, I wish to declare, so that there should be no misunderstanding, that Rumania desires to maintain good-neighbor and friendly relations with the surrounding countries; she is ready to work toward further strengthening of these relations in the cultural and economic fields. If, however, any attempt is planned to injure our territory, it will be met by the most determined and unshakeable resistance.

"This policy is not only the policy of the Government or the policy of a group of men: it is the policy of the country, it is the national policy....."

Finally, reference is made to that part of my today's telegram, in which I noted the displeasure expressed by Mr. Potemkin because he had found on his return trip from Ankara that revisionist agitation and feeling in Sofia was stronger than it had been when he passed through that city only a short time before on his way to the Turkish capital.

To the States of the Entente and to Bulgaria Balkan unity and solidarity appear as ends for which to strive in the present circumstances, but the Dobrudja stands in the way probably more than any other factor. Neither Rumania nor Bulgaria seems to be prepared to

give

ground, however, and the entry of Bulgaria into the Balkan Entente does not seem assured for the near future.

Respectfully yours,

For the Minister:

Frederick P. Hibbard,
Secretary of Legation.

710.
t.

CKH:EMS.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 740.00/1621 FOR #253

FROM Bulgaria (Millard) DATED May 19, 1939
TO NAME

1—1127 0 F O

REGARDING: Rumors that Great Britain and even Rumania have shown in inclination to meet Bulgaria's claim for the return of Southern Dobrudja and it was even reported that the British Minister in Sofia had made an offer of diplomatic support to that end.

mb

771.74/85

85

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

771.74/86

SEE 741.67/95 FOR Tel.#110, 11pm

FROM Rumania (Hibbard) DATED May 27, 1939.

TO NAME

1—1127 o f o

REGARDING: Rumanian-Bulgarian relations.

Reports relaxation of tension over the execution of 23 Bulgarians in the Dobrudja as a result of the Rumanian reply to the Bulgarian Government.

hc

60

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CJ 1—1336

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (br)

FROM BUCHAREST

Dated June 13, 1939

Rec'd 9:40 a.m., 14th

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUN 14 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

771.74

Secretary of State,

Washington.

117. June 13, 5 p.m.

The Prime Minister intimated to me this morning that his Government has not abandoned hope of better relations with Bulgaria which might lead to the latter's joining the Balkan Entente. He said that while territorial concessions were out of the question at the present time his Government was considering making certain suggested changes in respect of treatment of Bulgarian minorities in Rumania and of offering preferential treatment for imports of Bulgarian wheat into the Dobrudja.

GUNTHER

CSB

771.74/87

G/HC

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CJ

GRAY

BELGRADE

1—1336

FROM

Dated June 16, 1939

Rec'd 7:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUN 17 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

771.74
770.02

168, June 16, 6 p.m.

Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs has given communique to press denying authenticity of "tendentious reports" to the effect that Great Britain and Turkey had persuaded Rumania to make territorial concessions to Bulgaria to ensure latter's joining Balkan Entente.

LANE

NPL:EMB

771.74/88

GML

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 774.00/97 FOR Despatch #262

FROM Bulgaria (Atherton) DATED June 1, 1939.
TO NAME

1—1127 G P O

771.74/89

REGARDING: Rumanian-Bulgarian Relations.

Reports that since April 13 Rumanian has taken a very definite attitude against any conversations which might lead to the return to Bulgaria of the Dobrudja or any part thereof.

hc

GML

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 741.67/109 FOR Tel. 167- 6pm

FROM Yugoslavia (Lane) DATED June 16,1939

TO

NAME

1—1127 GPO

771.74/90

REGARDING: Relations between Rumania and Bulgaria. Conversation with Minister for Foreign Affairs, who expressed doubt as to the possibility of Rumania ceding part of southern Dobrudja to Bulgaria.

fp

GMD

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 621. Belgrade, June 17, 1939.

Subject: Communiqué of Rumanian Embassy concerning Territorial Concessions to Bulgaria.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1939 JUL 6 AM 11 44
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
JUL 8 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
JUL 7 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Rating	Distribution Instructions
Grade for	

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

771.74/88

FILED
JUL 18 1939

With reference to my telegram No. 168 of June 16, 7 p.m., 1939, I have the honor to transmit herewith a
1/ translation of the communiqué issued today by the Rumanian Embassy in Belgrade, as published in Politika of June 16, 1939.

Respectfully yours,

Arthur Bliss Lane

Arthur Bliss Lane

Enclosure:
1.Communiqué (Copy)

File No. 710.

ABL:HSB

Copies to Bucharest, Ankara, Sofia and London.

771.74/91

GHR

Enclosure to Despatch No. 621 of June 17, 1939, from the American Legation, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Translation. AS. Source: POLITIKA, June 16, 1939.

THE RUMANIAN EMBASSY DENIES THE NEWS RELATIVE TO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO BULGARIA.

The local Rumanian Embassy issued yesterday the following communiqué:

"Some Yugoslav papers have published the news that Great Britain and Turkey had proposed to Rumania that the latter make some territorial concessions for the purpose of having Bulgaria join the Balkan Entente.

"The Royal Rumanian Embassy in Yugoslavia categorically denies these tendentious news.

"The Rumanian attitude has been clearly outlined on many occasions officially by Mr. Kalinesco, the Prime Minister, and by Mr. Gafenco, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

"Any discussion relative to frontiers is excluded; there may be no concessions to break the integrity of Rumania.

"Rumania is carrying out a policy of peace and good relations with all its neighbors as this was stated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs some time ago."

HSB

mr. anderson

9 v

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Rumania will make some territorial concession to Bulgaria.

Feeling in Belgrade that due to British pressure - which may later involve Macedonia.

j

771.74/92

GMB

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel. # 201, 4p.m.
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated August 10, 1939 From Yugoslavia(Lane)

File No. 860h.00/1070

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

Shaw & MID & ONI

RDC

~~EU~~

~~PA-D~~

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

RFP
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (br)

FROM Belgrade

Dated September 11, 1939

Rec'd 10:19 p.m.

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
SEP 12 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary of State

Washington

263, September 11, 8 p.m.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me this evening substantially as follows:

One. He doubts accuracy of reports emanating from Bucharest and Budapest that Gafencu and Csaky are to confer in the immediate future. As he and Gafencu are intimate colleagues who have been in close touch on Hungarian and Bulgarian questions Gafencu would not confer with Csaky without informing Cincar-Markovic. Negotiations between Rumania and Hungary are proceeding satisfactorily regarding nonaggression pact and there is even hope of agreement on minorities provided a formula can be found.

Two. German airplanes for Bulgaria have not been shipped over Yugoslavia. On the other hand part of the shipment of arms and munitions from Germany for Bulgaria has gone across Yugoslavia. The rolling stock situation is serious, a large number of freight cars having been detained in Germany because of the war (from a newspaper source I understand that 7,000 Yugoslav cars are now being

held

771.74/93

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B

RFP -2- #263, September 11, 8 p.m. from Belgrade held up there).

Three. Majority of reports, many of which are contradictory, received from Yugoslav diplomatic representative deal with the possible attitude of Italy. He is convinced that the Italian people do not wish to enter the war and that the Italian Government will take every step to remain neutral. The situation in the Balkans will be greatly affected by Italy's decision. The move of Italy in sending 20,000 troops from Bari to Rhodes or Libya rather than to Albania was reassuring to Yugoslavia and Greece. The number of troops in Albania does not exceed 60,000.

740.0011 EW 1939

Repeated to Paris and Rome.

LANE

JRL:CFW

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT

Relations between Rumania and Bulgaria during past eighteen months; Report on -.

771.74/94

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See #1026
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated August 10, 1939 From/To Rumania (Hibbard)

File No. 871.00/698

771.74

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Rumanian-Bulgarian relations.

Rumanians refuse to discuss the Dobrudja question.

771.74/95

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel. #51, 10am
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated September 1, 1939 From / To Bulgaria (Millard)

File No. 740.0011-European War, 1939/41

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Bulgaria has increased her territorial demands of Rumania and is becoming a dangerous problem for the peace of the Balkans.

mr

771.74/96

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel. #282, 10 p.m.
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Sept. 21, 1939 From / To Yugoslavia (Lane)

File No. 740.0011 European War, 1939/483

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

96

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Recommendations made that Rumania cede southern Dobrudja to Bulgaria as a spontaneous gesture.

771.74/97

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel. #268, 1 p.m.
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Sept. 15, 1939 From / To Yugoslavia (Lane)

File No. 740.0011 European War, 1939/320

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

97

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Rapprochement between Bulgaria and Rumania. Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that Yugoslavia was now making a special effort to bring about a -.

rr

771.74/98

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel.#111, 7 p.m.
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Sept.16, 1939 From / To Turkey (MacMurray)

File No. 761.6711/38

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

98

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
OCT 10 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MA
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (Br)

FROM Bucharest

Dated October 7, 1939

Rec'd 5:27 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
OCT 8 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

313, October 7, 7 p.m.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Reports having reached me from an official source that negotiations were advancing rapidly between Rumanian and Yugoslavia on the one hand and Bulgaria on the other for territorial concessions to the latter with a view to its ~~(?)~~ DEFINITE entrance into the Balkan Entente, I questioned today the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs on this subject. That official replied that far from the above being the case such a development it would seem was further removed than ever now due to Russia's closer relations with Bulgaria and hopes engendered thereby that Bulgaria would one day receive far more than it could possibly get now.

GUNTHER

EMB

771.74
760h.74

771.74/99

GMR

NOV 15 1939

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT

Prohibition of export of oil from Rumania to Bulgaria. Aside from small quantity held by the Army there are now about 200 tons of gasoline in Bulgaria which is only a few days supply. Consequently if shipments are not resumed soon the transport situation may become acute.

771.74/100

ge

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel. #74, 3 pm
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Oct. 24, 1939 From/To Bulgaria (Millard)

File No. 674.719/1

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 1045. Bucharest, August 31, 1939.

Subject: Conversation between Mr. Gafencu and the Bulgarian Minister at Istanbul.

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NOV 2 1939 10 11 AM
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NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
A-M/C
NOV 8 - 1939
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
NOV 8 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Polish Ambassador Count Roger Raczyński called to see me this morning and in the course of conversation said that he had had entertaining reports of the somewhat bizarre response of the Bulgarian Minister to the overtures made to him by Mr. Gafencu, Rumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, when the latter was recently at Istanbul. According to his information, after an official luncheon to which the Bulgarian

Minister

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NOV 15 1939

771.74/101
GMR

Minister had significantly been invited, Mr. Gafencu asked the latter what it was his Government really wanted from Rumania. The Minister replied that it wanted the Southern Dobrudja. Mr. Gafencu then asked whether, in the event of that being arranged, his Government would be disposed to join the Balkan Entente. The reply was, "No, because we also want Dedeagach." Mr. Gafencu countered smilingly with an inquiry whether in the event that were achieved, would the Bulgarian Government then be prepared to join the Balkan Entente. The Minister is reported to have answered, "No, because we are not satisfied with our frontier line with Yugoslavia and would like a rectification to include certain towns there." Gafencu repeated again the inquiry as to the Balkan Entente and the Bulgarian Minister's answer was, "No, we would not join the Balkan Entente then, although we would agree to remain neutral in the event of hostilities."

The Polish Ambassador observed that there was considerable amusement in official circles over this conversation. It is noteworthy that the Bulgarian Minister, though he met Mr. Gafencu on his arrival, was conspicuous by his absence at the pier when he departed.

Respectfully yours,

Franklin Mott Gunther.

2 carbon copies
MK

710

t.

Copies to Istanbul, Sofia, Belgrade, Athens.

FMG/BFG

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

771.74/102

SUBJECT

Soviet Government negotiating with Bulgaria for some form of joint action against Rumania before the recent Soviet-Turkish negotiations belief of the Turkish Ambassador.

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel#854 8 p.m.
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Nov. 2, 1939 From U.S.S.R. (Steinhardt)

File No. 761.67/249

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

ml

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Greek Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs regards it as certain that Bulgaria will attempt to recover the Dobrudja if Rumania is attacked on two sides, and that such action by Bulgaria would bring Turkey into the war.

mr

771.74/103

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See Tel. #271, 4 p.m.
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Dec. 17, 1939 **From / To** Greece (MacVeagh)

File No. 740.0011 European War, 1939/1230

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

Central File: Decimal File 771.74, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Romania And Bulgaria, May 15, 1930 - Dec. 17, 1939. May 15, 1930 - December 17, 1939. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111390306%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 21 June 2025.